

Gonzalez may call early elections

MADRID (AP) — The Interior Ministry confirmed on Monday a radio report that Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez planned to call general elections for June instead of October, the private radio network SER said Monday. Ministry sources said the general elections would coincide with regional elections in Andalusia. Earlier Monday, the private radio station SER quoted "reliable sources" as saying the Socialist prime minister had decided on June 22 as the date for general elections and was to ask King Juan Carlos to dissolve parliament. An extraordinary cabinet meeting was also scheduled, the radio said. Mr. Gonzalez swept into power in the October 1982 general elections, winning 10 million votes and 202 of the 350 seats in the lower house of parliament.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Arab Thought Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية الراية

Sudan assembly session 'delayed'

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's military rulers were reported on Monday to have agreed in principle to postpone the first session of a newly-elected constituent assembly at the request of political parties. The semi-official Al Sahafa newspaper said the Transitional Military Council (TMC), in power since army generals toppled President Jaafar Numeiri last April, was expected to receive a formal request to delay the session to April 30 from Saturday. Al Sahafa said the delay was sought to allow more time to negotiate the formation of a national unity government and to let deputies from remote areas reach the capital in time for the session. There was no immediate official comment from the TMC, which had been due to end its one year of rule on April 26 and hand over power to a democratic government.

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Prince Mohammad visits army base

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, on Monday visited the southern military zone headquarters. He was received by the commander of the zone and a number of officers. Prince Mohammad inspected some of the units in the area and was briefed on training programmes being carried out there.

Diplomats visit military sites

AMMAN (Petra) — A number of diplomats accredited to Jordan on Monday visited some military sites including a formation of the Fifth Royal Armoured Division, maintenance workshops and an airbase.

Former Libyan diplomat arrested

ROME (AP) — Police have arrested a former Libyan diplomat in connection with an alleged plot to attack a U.S. ambassador and other diplomats in Rome last year. The ANSA news agency reported on Monday that the Libyan, identified as Arabi Mohammad Fitri, 47, from Tripoli, was picked up in Rome Sunday night. Without citing sources, the agency said Mr. Fitri allegedly furnished a gun to another Libyan to attack American, Saudi and Egyptian ambassadors in Rome. The Rome prosecutor also ordered the arrest of another former Libyan diplomat, Mussbah Mahmoud Werfalli, 39, of Beni Walid, ANSA said.

Kohl welcomes Gorbachev proposals

BONN (R) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl on Monday welcomed Moscow's latest conventional arms reduction proposals and said he believed a superpower summit this year could achieve concrete results. Dr. Kohl said the proposals, made public by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in East Berlin on Friday, were "a step forward, in that they will take into consideration European concerns." Mr. Gorbachev proposed a significant reduction of all components of NATO and Warsaw Pact land and tactical air forces in all Europe, from the Atlantic to the Ural Mountains 1,600 kilometres east of Moscow (Related story on page 8).

U.S. plans new nuclear test

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A major nuclear weapons test, the third announced test in the past month, is scheduled Tuesday morning at the Nevada test site. The test, code-named Jefferson, is scheduled for 6:30 a.m. (1430 GMT) at the site 150 kilometres northwest of Las Vegas, said spokesman Jack Campbell.

Top cartoonist Jaheen dies

CAIRO (AP) — Salah Jaheen, considered one of Egypt's top cartoonists, died on Monday. He was 55. Jaheen, who had been suffering from chronic heart trouble and other ailments, was taken to hospital in a coma last week. He remained unconscious until he succumbed.

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Regent urges Arabs to work for new consensus as basis for security

By Salamah B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, called on Arab governments on Monday to work towards securing conditions required for reaching "a new Arab consensus" that would lift the Arab World from its current state of paralysis.

The Crown Prince, delivering a keynote speech at a conference on Arab national security, defined the required conditions as Arab unity, national independence in confrontation with foreign hegemony, development, justice, democracy, and indigenous civilisation and cultural renaissance.

"I do not see these conditions as impossible to achieve," the Regent told the conference at the Arab Thought Forum. "I would go beyond that to say that I am certain that there is no way out for the Arab Nation from these crises without accomplishing these preconditions."

He explained that the unity of purpose in the Arab World would be translated into an integrated national and civilisational project that embodies the aspirations of all Arabs.

"What is even more important is to convince decision-makers in our nation, by all available means, to take these plans and mechanisms seriously, before we all

get flooded," he said.

Prince Hassan said the ATF was a bud of hope for the future generations "that are almost killed by despair and frustration amidst threats and challenges that are not confronted with a creative or effective national response by the leaders of the Arab Nation."

Reviewing dimensions of the threats to Arab national security, Prince Hassan outlined in his speech his perceptions of national security on all levels: "Whether we considered the narrow definition of national security which is limited to the protection of national soil, the state's entity and revenues, or the broader one which extends from the internal front, the protection of the society and its values, the citizen and his well-being, there is no one who would contest the fact that the security of the Arab countries as a group or separately, at the present, is in its lowest level since 1973, and perhaps since our states gained their political independence."

The Crown Prince said that the Arab World is threatened by international, regional and internal dangers. "None of these three kinds of threats are mere possibilities or illusions," the Crown Prince said. "For we have fallen a victim of all these threats in this or that part of the Arab World."

International threats to the Arabs, he said, basically emanate from the two superpowers that control the world order for the time being.

"Beginning with Afghanistan and ending with the American-Libyan confrontation, we have never witnessed, in the last three decades since the Suez affair in 1956, such a superpower interest and intervention," Prince Hassan said.

Other examples of superpower interference in the region, he said, were the Lebanese crisis, and air-plane hijackings that were carried out in the last few months.

"What is more serious than military intervention is the attempt by both superpowers to strategically control the region's resources whether through military bases and facilities, control of arms supplies, their price and other forms of political blackmail, or through strengthening its grip on our economic, financial, technological and food resources," he said in his address to the conference entitled "Arab National Security in the Coming Decade."

Outlining regional threats, Prince Hassan said that threats to the region's national security comes from within the region "and for

the last four decades by the Israeli settlement entity which is the greatest of all threats."

The Crown Prince characterised the Israeli threat as one which is not only aimed at usurping Arab land but also aims at threatening the Arab national entity. "I do not need to remind you of the Ariel Sharon ideology which is repeatedly declared for so many years, with which the Israeli ambitions developed, from the control of Palestine and its usurpation to the control of all neighbouring countries, to the expansion of the so-called vital strategic sphere," the Crown Prince said this sphere could include the region from Pakistan to Morocco, from Turkey to Chad and the Horn of Africa.

"This Israeli vision is not mere plans on paper but has entered the domain of practice in the last five years — from bombing the nuclear reactor in Baghdad to the east, to the bombing of the Palestine Liberation Organisation headquarters in Tunis to the west, to the threat to strike Yemen in the south... Not much doubt is left as to the seriousness of this plan," Prince Hassan said.

He said Israel demonstrated in Lebanon that it was trying to achieve "the absolute security" for the Jewish state. "As military experts tell us, absolute security to a certain state means the absence of security in all neighbouring states."

He said that Israel would not

(Continued on page 3)

Non-aligned team condemns U.S. raid, pledges support of Libya

Combined agency despatches

THE NON-ALIGNED Movement has pledged support for Libya and condemned last week's American attacks against Libya as "criminal aggression," the Libyan News Agency, JANA, reported Monday.

The pledge came during a meeting between Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi and a delegation of non-aligned nations Sunday night, JANA said.

The non-aligned delegation, led by Indian Foreign Minister Bali Bhagat, who flew to New York to protest the U.S. bombing to the United Nations on behalf of the 101-nation Non-Aligned Movement. Accompanying Mr. Bhagat were foreign ministers of Cuba, Yugoslavia, Ghana, Congo and Senegal.

They told Col. Qadhafi they

would urge the U.N. Security Council "to condemn this aggression and take the practical measures to stop its repetition," the JANA dispatch said.

Mr. Bhagat, told reporters the delegation wanted to show solidarity with Libya "at a time of its greatest crisis, suffering and tribulation." He said Tuesday's raid on Tripoli and other centres were "totally unjustified."

Mr. Bhagat said the Non-Aligned Movement would continue to pursue "meaningful diplomatic initiatives to help the friendly non-aligned country of Libya."

Diplomats said the strong non-aligned support was an indication that Col. Qadhafi had emerged politically stronger after U.S. planes that flew from Britain and Sixth Fleet carriers in the Mediterranean blasted his headquarters.

Mr. Bhagat said the delegation was to "proceed to the United Nations headquarters in New York to press the Security Council to take urgent action against the U.S. action and prevent its recurrence."

He also said Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, as head of the Non-Aligned Movement, had already sent a message of support to Col. Qadhafi.

Libya's deputy foreign minister has proposed a meeting of non-aligned nations in Malta to discuss the U.S.-Libyan crisis, Maltese state radio reported Sunday.

Turkey calls for U.N. inspection of U.S. raid targets; Vatican confirms release of bishop in Libya, page 2

EC states agree on sanctions on Libya

LUXEMBOURG (R) — The 12 European Community (EC) states agreed on Monday on a series of measures against Libya for its alleged involvement in international guerrilla violence. West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said.

After initial hesitation by Greece, the measures were agreed unanimously at a meeting of community foreign ministers, discussing the Libya crisis for the third time in eight days.

The agreement includes stiff restrictions on the number and activities of Libyan diplomats and other nationals throughout the community and a slimming down of community diplomatic missions in Libya.

Diplomats said this would principally affect nations that maintained diplomatic relations with Libya — France, West Germany, Belgium, Italy, Denmark, Spain, Greece and Portugal.

The ministers earlier heard appeals for action against Libya from Britain and West Germany, which said that the lack of effective community action might tempt the United States into new military attacks.

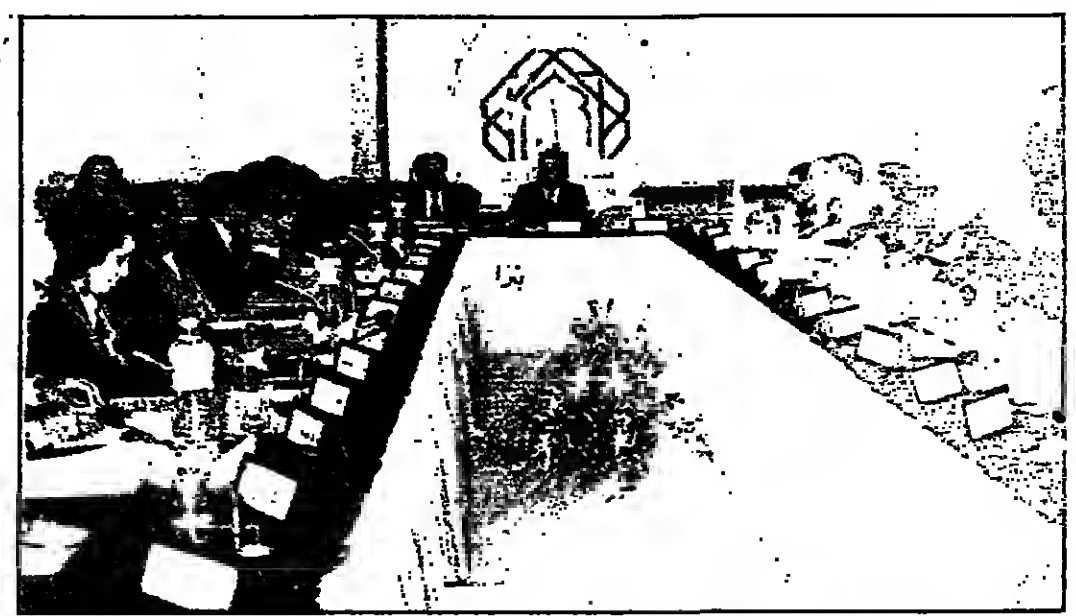
The agreement fell short of the British call for a complete cut in diplomatic ties with Libya.

The ministers were also expected to issue a statement later on Monday strongly condemning Libya for its alleged backing of guerrilla violence.

Libya reacted to the EC move by saying EC countries will be considered "partners in crime" with the United States if they act against Libyan people's bureaux (embassies).

Libya's official news agency JANA said that at a time of worldwide protest about last week's U.S. air raids on Libya, "the U.S.A. is attempting to put pressure on the European countries to boycott Libya politically by reducing the number of employees at people's bureaux and intensifying surveillance on Libyan nationals in accordance with an aggressive American programme."

He said that if the European countries agreed under U.S. pressure to any "hostile position" they would be cancelling their previous positions and involving themselves in the results of the U.S. "aggression" against Libya.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Sunday delivers the key note address at a conference on Arab security at the Arab Thought Forum (Petra photo)

OPEC deliberations end with 10-3 split over output ceilings

GENEVA (R) — The final communiqué of the OPEC conference confirmed that 10 member countries had agreed production ceilings of 16.3 million barrels per day (bpd) for the third quarter and 17.3 million for the fourth.

The communiqué said the 10 — excluding Iran, Libya and Algeria — agreed that to stabilise the market an average output level of 16.7 million bpd should be set for 1986.

They had agreed that member countries should gradually re-adjust their production to meet these targets.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Azagadeh, speaking as the 13 ministers ended their conference, but before the official communiqué was issued, said they had split 10-3 in favour of the production ceilings.

This is not significantly greater than OPEC's current official —

but widely ignored — ceiling of 16 million bpd, and was expected to have a negative effect on already depressed oil prices, according to analysts here.

Iran, Libya and Algeria favour a lower ceiling of around 14 million bpd to try to force prices up.

Delegates said the three would dissociate themselves from the final communiqué, indicating that the majority had failed in their struggle to win them over and achieve the unity OPEC has lacked for months past.

The delegates said the communiqué would also reiterate OPEC's aim of restoring prices to \$28 a barrel from their current level of little more than \$11.

Following are excerpts from the final communiqué:

"The conference condemned the attacks perpetrated by the United States of America against an OPEC member country, the

Socialist Peoples Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and expressed its deep concern about those acts which are against international law."

"The conference unanimously re-elected as its president, Dr. Arturo Hernandez Grisanti, minister of energy and mines of Venezuela and head of its delegation. Fawzi A. Shakhshuki, secretary of the general peoples committee of planning of the Socialist Peoples Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and head of its delegation, was unanimously re-elected as alternate president."

"The conference reviewed the report of the special ministerial committee, headed by its president, formed by the last meeting of the conference to examine ways and means of securing and defending for OPEC a fair share in the world oil market consistent with the necessary income for member countries' development."

OIC to revive bid to end Gulf war

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Prospects of the Islamic Goodwill Committee launching fresh efforts to bring the Iran-Iraq war to an end were discussed on Monday by the secretary-general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Sharifuddin Pirzadeh with Kuwait's Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, and other Kuwaiti leaders, officials disclosed.

Mr. Pirzadeh, who is a committee member, conferred also with the crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, and the deputy premier and foreign minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

The officials added that the discussions also tackled the latest developments in the Gulf war, the U.S. raids against Libya and Kuwait's preparations to host the next pan-Islamic summit conference early next year.

The goodwill committee, created by an OIC summit in 1981, has so far failed in its mediation bid to end the Gulf war, now in its sixth year. The committee is chaired by Gambian President Dawda Jawara.

The OIC secretary-general told reporters upon his arrival on Sunday that the Islamic panel had postponed a meeting scheduled for April to make way for the non-aligned ministerial meeting in New Delhi to also effort mediation bids between Baghdad and Tehran.

Mr. Pirzadeh, however, did not give an alternative date for the panel's next meeting.

The OIC chief's visit to Kuwait coincided with reports of fresh fighting in the Fao Peninsula in southernmost Iraq. While Iran said the Iraqis suffered heavy casualties in battles Saturday night and Sunday Baghdad rejected the claim saying that the "fighting was small, like the daily routine."

An Iranian military communiqué carried by the official IRNA news agency claimed the Iraqi casualties as more than 1,500 dead, about 2,600 wounded and many more captured.

The battle raged Saturday night and Sunday between the Iranian-occupied disputed Iraqi oil port of Fao and the Iraqi naval base of Umm Qasr, next to the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border, said IRNA.

Iraq denied the Iranian claim. Baghdad Radio quoted a military spokesman as saying "the fighting was small, like the daily routine and the Iraqis were successful."

The spokesman challenged the Iranians to invite foreign correspondents to the scene to verify their claims.

Iraq on Monday denied using chemical weapons on the Fao battlefield and reiterated its denial of the Iranian reports of heavy fighting there.

U.S. to consult Asia and Europe on SALT

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Two U.S. envoys will consult with Asian and West European leaders this week on the unsigned SALT II treaty, apparently without disclosing whether President Ronald Reagan plans to keep the U.S. nuclear arsenal within the pact's limit, officials say.

Edward L. Rowny and Paul Nitze will discuss the status of the 1979 U.S.-Soviet treaty to limit various types of nuclear weapons and the prospects for stepping up lagging negotiations with the Soviets on new accords.

Although the SALT (Strategic Arms Limitation Talks) treaty was never officially ratified, the United States says it has complied with its tenets.

Mr. Rowny, a new senior adviser, was scheduled to fly to Tokyo and from there to South Korea and China. Mr. Nitze, who leaves Tuesday for meetings with British officials in London, will make stops in West Germany, Italy, France, Belgium and The Netherlands. Mr. Nitze will meet Friday with the NATO council in Brussels.

With a new Trident nuclear submarine due to go to sea next month, the president must decide whether to allow its 24 missiles to take the United States past the ceiling specified in the SALT II treaty, or to destroy or dry-dock older missile launchers to compensate for the Trident going on line.

The officials, who insisted on anonymity, told AP top advisers who met with Mr. Reagan on Wednesday remain divided on what should be done. Only Mr. Nitze and Secretary of State George P. Shultz favoured retiring older Poseidon submarine missiles or land-based Minuteman missiles to stay within treaty bounds.

The Trident is not due to go to sea until May 20, so Mr. Reagan does not have to make an immediate decision. Sources told AP if the president does not make a decision while Mr. Rowny and Mr. Nitze are overseas, the trips will mainly involve soliciting the advice of allied leaders.

On Saturday, more than half the members of the House of Representatives urged President Reagan to continue his five-year policy of adhering to the SALT I and SALT II treaties.

In a letter, 221 lawmakers said U.S. security "is best served by requiring both the United States and the Soviet Union to observe limits on offensive forces."

Gorbachev warns U.S. against political manoeuvres, page 8

Bomb explodes near U.S. ambassador's residence in Lima

LIMA (AP) — A car packed with dynamite exploded before dawn Monday outside the residence of U.S. Ambassador David Jordan, damaging a three-metre section of a concrete wall surrounding the building. An embassy spokesman said no-one was hurt in the bombing.

A police sergeant at the scene said the bombing occurred at 5:10 a.m. He said police guarding the streets around the residence saw two men running away from the area after the explosion, which rocked the surrounding neighbourhood.

He said police ordered the men to stop and opened fire on them with submachine guns when they did not do so. But the men escaped into the pre-dawn darkness.

Police did not immediately blame either of the two leftist guerrilla groups held responsible in the past for bombing and machine-gun attacks on the U.S. embassy, U.S. consulate and the ambassador's residence since... Shining Path group launched guerrilla war in 1980 to overthrow Peru's elected governments.

Leading scholars, intellectuals gather in Amman for Al al Bait conference

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Leading international, Arab and Islamic intellectuals, scholars and leaders will meet here Wednesday for the fifth conference of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation and Research (Al al Bait Foundation) which will open under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan is expected to chair the conference's five-working sessions which will touch on various issues and studies related to Islam, ranging from draft studies on Arab and Islamic economies and education to defining modules of Islamic books and indexes.

The five-day conference and its working sessions will discuss separate themes which are:

- Models of Islamic books such as analytical indexes of Islamic economy in accordance with Arab and Islamic education, a comprehensive index of Arab Islamic culture which includes a guide to documents and Koranic manuscripts available at the Al al Bait Foundation, a draft Islamic encyclopaedia, a book on the foundation's fourth annual conference and a guide to British photos and documentaries on Jordan.
- Studies on a draft project on Arab and Islamic education.
- Studies on a draft project for Islamic legislative consultancy.
- The treatment of non-Muslims in Islam.

— Financial management in Islam.

Along the side-lines of the fifth conference, the foundation is also organising three different activities and programmes. The first of the three programmes includes a discussion and review of the foundation's preliminary plans and the second and third activities are two seminars which will tackle various issues impeding research in the area of Islamic economy and a seminar to commemorate the late Sheikh Ibrahim Qattan.

Taking part in the five-day conference are 150 leading personalities representing various Arab, Islamic and European countries as well as 20 Jordanians representing scientific, educational, and religious sectors.



ITALY HONOURS MONSIGNOR: Foreign Minister Tanzi (right) Monday attends a ceremony in honour of Monsignor Ra'ouf Najjar (second right) who has been awarded the Italian Order of Merit in recognition of the services

Dr. Najjar has given to both Jordan and Italy. The order was conferred upon him by Italian President Francesco Cossiga and was presented by the Italian ambassador to Jordan (Petra photo)

Haj Hassan returns from Gulf tour

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan returned to Amman on Monday at the end of a 13-day tour of the Gulf which took him to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

Mr. Haj Hassan's tour aimed to follow up on the results of the resolutions and decisions taken during the First Jordanian Expatriates' Conference, which was held in Amman last year and also to brief Jordanians living abroad on the achievements and progress made since then. The visit also aimed to ensure coordination in the preparations for the second expatriates conference and to inform Jordanians working in the Gulf about new investment opportunities in Jordan and incentives provided by the government to encourage them to take part in various fields of investment.

In an interview with the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Mr. Haj Hassan said that all officials he met during his tour were fully satisfied with the performance of Jordanians working in their countries and he added that these officials also praised the loyalty, dedication and sense of responsibility shown by Jordanians abroad.

The minister added that he met with representatives of the Jordanian communities in these countries and held discussions on their concerns, conditions and proposals in preparation for listing them on the agenda of the Second Jordanian Expatriates' Conference.

He also reviewed their contribution to the construction and development of their country.

Mr. Haj Hassan also said that his meetings with members of the Jordanian expatriate community touched upon a number of issues of interest to them in the fields of housing, building schools for their children in their duty stations and increasing the number of seats for expatriates' children at Jordanian universities. He also discussed conscription, customs exemptions, authorising Jordanian embassies in these countries to conduct transactions such as issuing family books, certificates of birth and the organisation of annual industrial exhibitions. The talks also centred on opening Jordanian commercial centres and improving tourist facilities in the Kingdom to encourage Jordanian expatriates to spend their summer vacations in Jordan.

Speaking about his meetings with officials in these countries, Mr. Haj Hassan said the talks "were fruitful and constructive" and added that the officials expressed their interest to continue employing Jordanian workers and some even asked for more Jordanian workers in certain fields.

Hmoud pays inspection visit to Ramtha, Jerash municipalities

RAMTHA (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Marwan Al Hmoud Monday reiterated that the government is working seriously to find solutions to solve problems related to financing municipalities. During an inspection tour of Ramtha and Jerash municipalities, the minister said that cooperation between municipalities and the public would maximise the use of available resources and achieve real benefits for the community.

During a meeting he held at Ramtha Municipality with the head and members of Ramtha municipal council, the minister stressed the importance of Ramtha's location. The minister also decided to set up a technical working team to conduct comprehensive field studies on organisational issues in the city.

Mr. Hmoud started his tour with a visit to Jerash Municipality where he held a meeting with the head and members of Jerash municipal council and he later paid a visit to Jerash district governorate where he was briefed on the projects and services offered to the public by the municipal and village councils in the area.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Majali presents shield to Interpol official

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Director Lieutenant General Abdul Hadi Al Majali Monday presented the visiting secretary general of the International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol) with the public security shield. The Interpol chief Monday visited the PSD and listened to a briefing by the public relations officer about the duties of the department. He also visited the Anti-Narcotics and Forgery Control Department and Amman Police Department and inspected Mubajireen Police Station.

Obeid begins transport talks in Iraq

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Minister of Transport Farhi Obeid Monday held discussions with his Iraqi counterpart Abdul Jaber Abdul Rahim on means to develop bilateral cooperation and coordination in the fields of transportation and telecommunications. Mr. Obeid, who arrived in Baghdad early Monday, is heading a Jordanian delegation to attend meetings of the general council of the Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company. Upon his arrival in Baghdad, Mr. Obeid said that the meetings will discuss the company's plans and will evaluate its achievements.

Shaka'a returns from Casablanca

AMMAN (Petra) — A conference of Arab ministers of justice, which concluded in Casablanca Friday, has in principle approved a unified Arab civil status law and a unified Arab judicial system, according to Minister of Justice Riyadh Al Shaka'a. Mr. Shaka'a, who returned from Casablanca on Sunday, said that the unified Arab civil status law was referred to a special drafting committee to formulate the final draft of the law. Mr. Shaka'a did not elaborate on the provisions of the new law but said that Jordan was a member of the special drafting committee.

Arab accountants to meet Wednesday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The general assembly and board of directors of the Arab Society of Certified Accountants (ASCA) are due to open their meetings on Wednesday to review the ASCA's achievements in 1985 and to discuss future projects, according to a press release issued in Amman. The two-day gathering will also discuss means to boost economics of Arab countries, the release added.

CAEU to review plan for data office

AMMAN (Petra) — A Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) committee will open a three-day meeting today at the CAEU headquarters in Amman to discuss a working plan for the Arab office for statistics and documentation. The meetings will discuss the office's working plan for the next five years, priorities of work as well as statistical bulletins on Arab countries. Delegations from Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Kuwait and the CAEU general secretariat are taking part in the meetings.

Jordan to attend Arab economy talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a seminar on Arab economic models and economic cooperation among Arab countries which will open today in Kuwait by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). The two-day seminar will discuss economic models for Arab countries, Arab economic cooperation as well as employment in Arab countries.

British trade, economy team ends visit

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A delegation of senior British businessmen left Amman on Monday after a three-day visit to Jordan during which they held talks with senior Jordanian officials on means to boost the scope of economic cooperation between the two countries.

According to a press release issued by the British embassy in Amman, head of the delegation Lord Jellicoe said the delegation's talks with Jordanian officials explored opportunities for possible bilateral cooperation in the financial and economic fields during Jordan's five-year development plan.

"We have had most useful discussions with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and key ministers, as well as with the private sector, Lord Jellicoe said. He added that the talks identified several areas of possible future cooperation.

Describing his visit as "successful," Lord Jellicoe, who is chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, said that the delegation will follow up on possibilities for further cooperation and will put into effect agreements signed during the two countries' visit.

Earlier Monday, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib and the British delegation discussed Jordanian-British cooperation in the fields of electricity and energy.

Jordan Valley Authority President Munther Haddadin also received the delegation and briefed them on the authority's activities and future project the agency said. The delegation, also called at the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) where they met with WAJ President Mohammad Saleh Al Keilani. Mr. Keilani briefed the delegation on the authority's water and sewerage projects.

On Sunday, the delegation was received by Minister of Finance Hanna Odeh who discussed means of boosting bilateral cooperation in finance related affairs. The delegation grouped representatives of British financial, commercial and industrial organisations.

Industrialists praise Regent's proposal to encourage industry

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian industrialists Monday hailed a call by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, to transform Jordan into an industrial maintenance centre and described the proposal as a means to boost the industrial sector.

"Considering Jordan as a centre for the maintenance of industrial equipment for neighbouring countries would reactivate the industrial sector in the Kingdom," director of the Amman Chamber of Industry Issam Bdeir told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview.

A number of private sector industrialists also said that if Jordan became such a centre, it would boost industrial ties with neighbouring countries and would also encourage the Jordanian industrial sector.

The Crown Prince's statement was made Sunday evening during a meeting with heads and members of industrial committees at the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC).

In order to become a regional maintenance centre, the Crown Prince told the industrialists, the Kingdom needs an efficient management system. It must also organise its transit and transport facilities and develop its free zone corporations, he added.

Senate speaker briefs students on Jordan's political progress

AMMAN (Petra) — The Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi has reiterated that the influential political, national commitment and social and political progress which Jordan enjoys are attributed to the wise leadership of His Majesty King Hussein and based on the principles of the Great Arab Revolt.

During a meeting held at the Parliament on Monday, with a group of political science students at the University of Jordan, Mr. Lawzi reviewed Jordan's achievements and development and went on to discuss democratic life

in Jordan and the developments which the Kingdom has witnessed since the election of the first legislative council in 1929. Mr. Lawzi also explained the tasks and responsibilities of Parliament.

The Upper House speaker also described the unity of the two banks of Jordan as the "strongest in the recent history of the Arab nation" and added that this is a sacred unity based on deep national and pan-Arab principles and that it is considered the nucleus for comprehensive Arab unity. Mr. Lawzi pointed out Jordan's pan-Arab role.

Regent urges Arab efforts towards new consensus as first step

(Continued from page 1)

have dreamt to achieve that without the complete support of the United States on one side and the absence of a minimum of Arab agreement on a strategy."

The Crown Prince said the other regional threat in the area was Iran at the eastern flank of the Arab World represented by Iraq. He described the Iran-Iraq war as "a tragic and futile conflict at the same time." He said that this war would not have continued for six years if Arabs had a consensus on a minimum strategic limit in defence of national soil.

Discussing internal threats, Prince Hassan referred to inter-Arab conflicts and civil war in some Arab countries. He pointed out to the armed conflict in the Western Sahara which drained the energies of Algeria and Morocco and the civil wars in southern Sudan and Lebanon.

He said the five wars the Arabs suffered in the last 10 years cost Arabs half a million dead, several million injured or evicted and about \$200 billion.

Although the Arab World had spent about \$200 billion on arms in the last decade, "they are weaker today than they were on the eve of the 1973 war," he said. "The real reason behind the failure of this arms build-up is the absence of a unified Arab will and the lack of coordination between the wills of the different countries," Prince Hassan said. He also attributed the uselessness of these efforts to the "lack of an accurate understanding of the bal-

ance in international relations."

"There is no foreign power which can guarantee us our national or pan-Arab security," he said adding that "the United States did not consider the minimum of our interests or even feelings when it defined its policies in the region because of its strategic alliance with Israel and the power of the Zionist lobby in the U.S. Congress."

"The Soviet Union was not capable of limiting the aggressive Israeli transgression in the region... there are limits to what others can do for us," the Regent said.

He also said that one of the reasons behind the current state of affairs in the Arab World was the lack of realisation by Arab leaders that "the first line of defence of our foreign security starts from within our societies."

In his concluding note, Prince Hassan said that there was no way out from the current situation without dealing with the reasons behind Arab weakness and paralysis. "We have no choice but to keep trying, collectively as governments, states and people... all we need is to seek the implementation of the existing Arab charters, treaties and agreements."

Dr. Ali Eldean Hilal presented a working paper on Arab national security in which he made an analysis of the transformation that was suffered by the Arab World and the influence of foreign power.

Analysing the region's recent history, Dr. Hilal said that a plan to unite the Arab World was aborted in 1967 with the Arab-Israeli

war and that the Arab World now lives "the phase of absorbing the defeat and the hope to gather forces for confronting the enemy."

"The ongoing crises in the Arab World are the side effects of what happened in 1967," Dr. Hilal said. He said the great challenge facing the Arab leaders was "how to deal with this reality."

Dr. Hilal, a professor of economics and political science from Egypt, said Arab countries should "adopt the policy of defence... a pan-Arab national strategy, based on reaching a consensus on a minimum requirement and then enlarging the circle of this consensus to handle other problems."

Dr. Hilal said the political situation in the Middle East in the 1980s "is characterised by a decline of Soviet influence, accompanied by an increase of U.S. influence. He said that while the Soviet Union has retreated and followed "a cautious policy in the Middle East," the U.S. has "invaded" the area.

"This situation has increased the American ability to control the balance of power and to influence the course of events" in the area, he said.

He pointed out that the U.S. remains the main weapon supplier to Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Israel and "consequently, it can influence the balance of military power in the region since it knows the capabilities of each party."

According to Dr. Hilal, there are a number of given factors that should be taken into consideration in order to achieve Arab security.

Arab security can only be achieved within an Arab framework and requires the cooperation of all Arab governments and systems regardless of differences. Other factors that should be taken into consideration, according to Dr. Hilal, are that "no Arab country is beyond the Israeli threats" and that a special relationship with the U.S. "is no longer a guarantee for Arab countries against Israeli aggression."

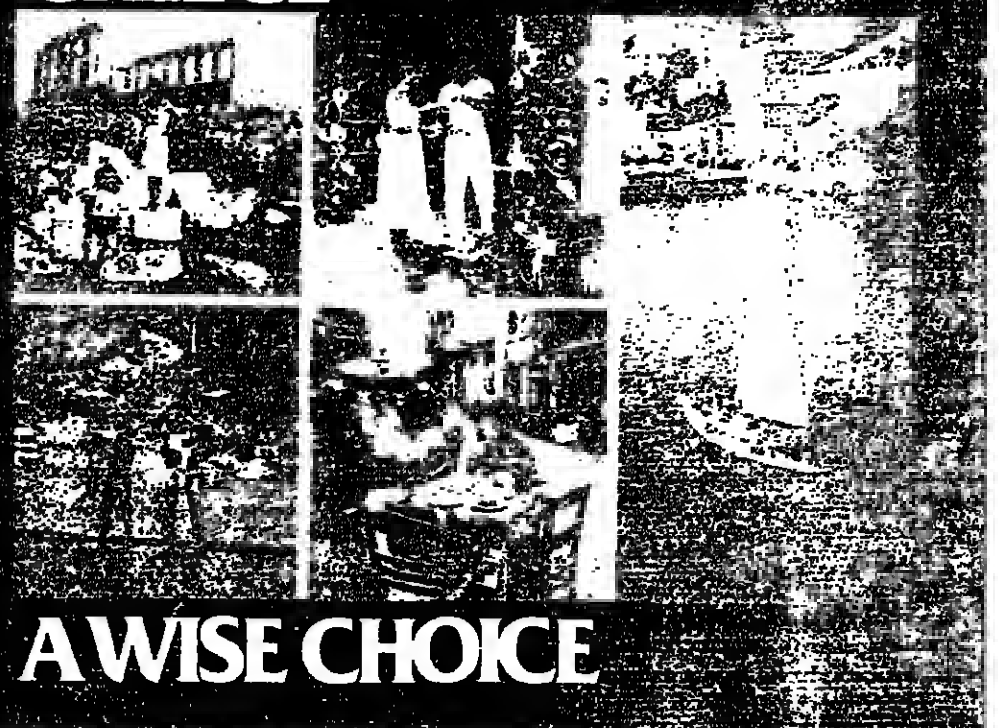
Dr. Hilal outlined specific steps that should be taken by the Arabs to succeed in achieving Arab security:

- Settling inter-Arab differences, problems and disputes.
- Holding regular Arab summits to enhance the role of the Arab League.
- Avoiding a military confrontation with Israel and pursuit of efforts for a peaceful settlement "in order to gain enough time to redress the current balance of strategic power"; and
- Containing the decline in oil prices.

Dr. Hilal also outlined three long-term goals that the Arab governments should strive to achieve in the next five years. These include the formulation of a formula that will enable Egypt to return to all Arab institutions, to have balanced relations between the Arab World and both superpowers and to redress the balance of military power in the area in favour of the Arab World.

Commenting on Dr. Hilal's paper was Dr. Suad Al Sabbah from Kuwait. Dr. Sabbah said that

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New proposal, old directions

SOVIET leader Mikhail Gorbachev has been buffeting the U.S. administration with a barrage of arms control proposals, the latest being his offer of substantial reduction of all components of NATO and Warsaw Pact forces from the Atlantic to the Ural mountains.

The Vienna talks, meant to deal with the problem of East-West arms reduction, got bogged down long ago due apparently to two major reasons. One was Soviet insistence on dismantling the NATO tactical nuclear weapons from the European theatre, which was unacceptable to the Western powers as they feared it would render them vulnerable to attacks by overwhelmingly superior conventional forces of the Soviet bloc; and the other was insistence by the Western powers on demanding guarantees of compliance with any emerging East-West arms reduction agreement which meant on-site inspection and verification, a condition the Soviets had hitherto considered unacceptable.

The latest Gorbachev proposal is designed to remove these two obstacles and chart the Vienna negotiations on a fresh course. The Soviet leader said that operational-tactical nuclear weapons could be reduced simultaneously with conventional weapons and that he would allow on-site inspection and verification as well as satellite surveillance to verify compliance with any agreement.

One implication of all the arms control proposals Mr. Gorbachev has been making, including the latest one, seems to be his apparent allergy to the conventional wisdom of his own predecessors as well as that of the Western powers, especially of the U.S., in adamantly adhering to the outdated doctrine of nuclear deterrence in East-West relations. A second implication is that he is apparently more than prepared to cooperate in reshaping U.S.-Soviet relations, bedevilled as they are with conflicts and confrontation at the global level, in an atmosphere that encourages mutually beneficial and cooperative ventures in science and technology. Consequently, a final implication is that a process should be started right now to ensure world peace and security based on the limitation, reduction and elimination of all nuclear weapons from the face of the earth.

But in order to do this Mr. Gorbachev will have to counter the many obstacles that stand in the way of genuine and successful arms control agreements, including the strong arms lobby in the United States and elsewhere. Any suggestion by way of large scale limitation, reduction or elimination of weapon systems would mean an attempt to weaken the military-industrial complex in the U.S., which has multi-billion dollar stakes in every weapon development programme, and therefore one can only expect strong resistance to it from this quarter. The U.S. administration also would be loath to think of the prospect of antagonising the booming arms industry on a plea of maintaining world security and peace which anyway it thinks can best be ensured by the doctrine of nuclear deterrence.

It is highly unlikely the U.S. will ever change this doctrine in the foreseeable future even if Mr. Gorbachev were to propose a comprehensive, voluntary unilateral Soviet nuclear disarmament. However, Mr. Gorbachev's recent proposal vouches for a U.S. response and that presumably will come couched in terms, not very offensive to the arms barons and the ultra-rightists of the United States.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Summit warranted by urgency of threats

THE Arab World is now laden with problems that require a meeting at the highest level, attended by all Arab leaders to discuss those problems and find solutions for them. Any differences among the regimes of the Arab World should not prevent such a summit, because what is required at the moment is unanimous agreement on political, psychological and economic matters far more important than personal disputes. This summit is needed now more than at any time in the past in view of the prevailing weakness and divisions among the Arabs, and in the light of recurrent attacks on this Arab Nation by common enemies. What has happened and what is to happen to the Arabs require from the leaderships a speedy meeting in which the map of the Arab World should be placed and examined in detail, and during which serious study should be made of the problems in each part, and proper measures for a solution worked out. The seriousness of the situation in our region requires such a summit that should not be devoted solely for one subject, but rather to discussing all chronic problems and all issues of concern to any Arab state.

Al Dustour: Summit should address all problems

WE hope that the Arabs will not find in the subject of preparing a summit agenda a cause for differences and disputes among them because we want no more disappointments for the Arab Nation. What the masses wish to have is a successful Arab summit meeting, well-prepared to help the leaders take the proper decisions. Some Arab countries have reportedly insisted that the coming summit should be devoted solely for discussing the American attack on Libya with the total exclusion of the rest of the problems plaguing the Arab World, and this is very regrettable indeed because these countries do not want their leaders to benefit fully from the summit and exchange views on the various dangers threatening the Arab countries at large. This attitude gives the impression that these countries are not yet aware of the seriousness of the situation in the Arab region, and do not realise that the existing dangers in the East and West are worth a meeting at the highest level. The situation calls on the Arab leaders to rise to the level of responsibility and deal with the existing problem with seriousness and objectivity. The situation does not tolerate further procrastination nor does it allow further divisions among the Arabs. The Arab countries should not lose this opportunity and should meet as soon as possible to find ways of fending off dangers.

Sawt Al Shaab: Israeli terrorists attack Syria

THE recent series of bombing incidents in Syrian cities, causing the death and injury of several people is a sign of the dangers looming in the offing of this region. The bombings occurred at a time when acts of terrorism are being escalated, and when an Arab country is being attacked under the pretext of combating international terrorism. The incident took place at a time when enemy agents in Lebanon have been stepping up their efforts to consecrate divisions and abort solutions for the Lebanese crisis. The bombs went off as the Israeli forces are continuing to mass their troops along the Syrian border, and Israeli leaders continuing to level accusations at Damascus. Clearly the whole region is being exposed to plots and conspiracies paving the way for a military blow and another aggression on the Arab region. Nothing can abort such plots and aggressions except through a unified Arab stand and a united front in the face of the common danger.

U.S.-Israeli-Central American connection

The following is the first part of an article on Israel's and U.S. involvement in Central America over the past ten years. The article, written by a professor of psychology at Hilla University, and author of *Jerusalem and Israel's relations with the Arab World*, is reprinted from the *Link* magazine which is published by the New York-based *Link* magazine for the East of the Jordan River, Inc. The remaining part of the article will appear in the Jordan Times in the coming week.

By Benjamin Beit-Hallahmi

CENTRAL America over the past ten years has been in the throes of war, with Israel a party to this war. What is Israel up to in Central America, and why has it become involved in such a distant war? A closer look at the details of Israeli and U.S. involvement, to the extent they are known, will establish their significance.

Within the impoverished region of Central America the numbers and technology in terms of modern arms are almost irrelevant. It is a region that is underdeveloped and poor not only in relation to its standard of living, but in regard to military technology. In the whole of Central America, there are less than 150 tanks, compared with about 10,000 in the Middle East. Five hundred jets, one transport airplane, several jets in Central America make a huge difference in the art of death and oppression. Anyone wanting to interfere in the violent struggles in this region can do so without substantial investments. A few millions may mean the arming of thousands of fighters, as in the case of the contras. According to one observer: "Central American armies are very small... They do not need much modern weaponry. Light weapons, a few helicopters and a few transport airplanes can change the military picture completely in countries where the military is usually busy suppressing internal rebellions."

Guatemala

IN THE midst of endless misery and cruelty, Guatemala stands out as one Central American country where those in power have been fighting those in power have been fighting those without power, using an unusual degree of ruthlessness and bloodiness. Over the years, numerous reports of the true realities of Guatemala have been harsh in their judgment.

Those who cry out the deliberate policies of endless killings there proclaim their indebtedness to Israel, not only as the source of their hardware, but as the source of their inspiration. Israel has become the main support of the Guatemalan regime, as attested to by both Romeo Lucas Garcia and Efraim Rios Montt. It was Efraim Rios Montt, the bon-a-fide former dictator of Guatemala, who explained his easy takeover in March 1982 by saying that "... many of our soldiers were trained by Israelis." In 1981, the chief of staff of the Guatemalan Army, who praised Israel for its support to the regime, declared "... that 'the Israeli soldier is the model for our soldiers'."

Since 1975, Guatemala has received arms from the United States, Israel, France, Switzerland, Taiwan, Italy, Belgium and Yugoslavia. Israel and Taiwan have been the most active in training Guatemalan officers, who often travel to both countries. Israel

became Guatemala's largest arms supplier in the early 1970's, and earned a monopoly position after the United States stopped supplying arms to Guatemala in 1977, when Guatemala turned to Israel for military aid.

In November 1977, the Guatemalan Army replaced its old U.S.-made Garand M-1 rifles, with Galil rifles produced in Israel. This was part of a programme, which will replace all equipment used by the army with Israeli equipment.

During 1975 Israel carried out its first major arms deal with Guatemala, delivering 11 Arava planes, artillery pieces and light weapons. Between 1977 and 1981, Israel was the Guatemalan general's sole supplier. In 1980 the Guatemalan Army was equipped with 15,000 Galil rifles. Israel also delivered large quantities of Uzi submachine guns, 10 RBV-MK1 armored cars, grenade launchers and 3 Dabur patrol boats. There have been several reports about an industrial plant, built with Israeli help in the city of Coban, which has been producing ammunition for Galil rifles and Uzi submachine guns, together with an armored vehicle, of Israeli design, known as "Armadoillo."

One shipment of Israeli arms to Guatemala received unwanted publicity in 1983, and revealed the reality of the Israeli arms export business. On December 22, 1983, U.S. customs officers in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, discovered during a routine check that four containers carried by the Israeli ship, Zim-New Orleans, listed as containing "general freight," actually contained 12,000 rifles. The shipment, sent by Eagle Exports of Ashdod, Israel, were on their way to Guatemala.

The most unusual aspect of the story was the rifles themselves — Mauser 7.62 mm rifles, a model that dates back to 1899. First made in Germany, the model was so successful, that it was manufactured in several other countries. The Mauser 99 was used by the German Army in the two world wars. In 1948, a shipment of them was sent to Israel from Czechoslovakia, and the rifles became the standard light weapon of the Israeli Army during the war of 1948-49 and for years afterwards. In the 1960's and 1970's the Mauser 99s were replaced by the Uzi. The Israeli-made submachine gun, the Belgian-made F.N. automatic rifle, the American-made M-16, the Soviet-made AK-47 Kalashnikov, and the Israeli-made Galil. The old Mauser rifle, declared too obsolete even for basic training, was put in storage. Then, in 1983, the Israeli Defense Ministry decided to sell these obsolete weapons to Guatemala.

The story of the Florida flap was brief, and had a happy ending. Guatemalan President Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores announced that the weapons were indeed on their way to Guatemala, where they would be used in basic

training for the army. The United States Government did not stand in the way of an arms deal between Israel and Guatemala, two of its allies, and the story was soon forgotten.

One significant aspect of the Israeli involvement in Guatemala, mentioned by numerous sources is the presence of Israeli advisers, who are not just instructors, but are directly involved in counter-insurgency activities. During the time when U.S. military aid to Guatemala was cut off... Israel sold a variety of military equipment to the Guatemalan Army and Israeli advisers — some official, others private — helped Guatemalan internal security agents hunt underground rebel groups. Israel had been aiding the Guatemalan military regimes through the supply of arms, computerized information centers and ground radar equipment, in addition to directly engaging in counter-insurgency campaigns against the Indian communities.

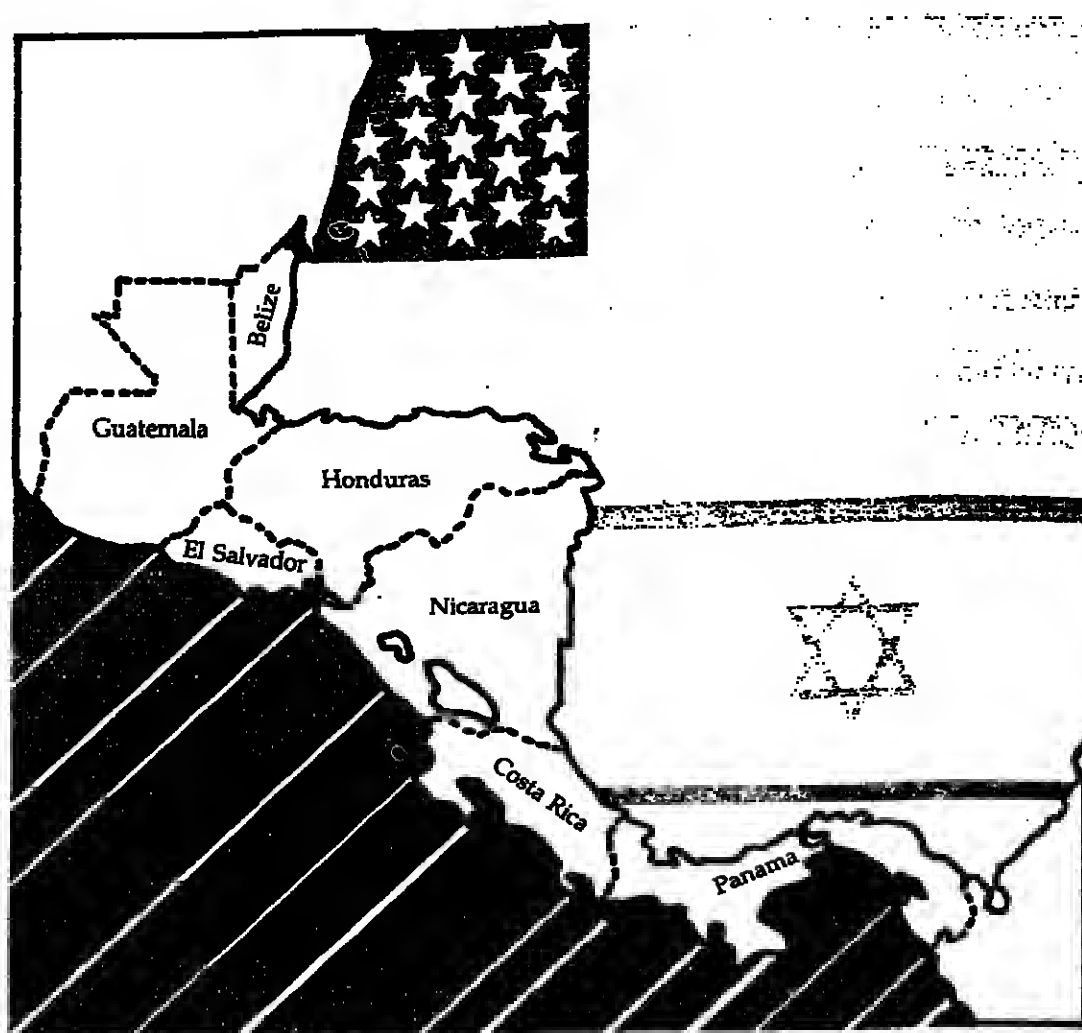
Israeli advisers in Guatemala have also been working with the secret police, the notorious G-2. Advisers from Chile and Argentina have joined the Israelis in training the secret police in interrogation techniques. An important part of the Israeli contribution to the efficient Guatemalan counter-insurgency offensive has been the development of a computerized system for the processing of police data. According to some reports, 80 per cent of the Guatemalan population are covered by this system, with names and other details stored in the collective memory of the computer. The system is maintained and operated by Israelis. Some sources have claimed that a computerised system, installed by Israelis, is capable of tracking "suspicious activities" by noting excessive electricity consumption overnight in a particular building.

According to guerrillas, the computerised system has been used to provide lists of names for the right-wing death squads. Utilization of computers in counter-insurgency follows the Israeli experience in using the same technology to control the occupied territories. In one specific deal, retired Gen. Avigdor Ben-Gal, who was involved in selling military hardware and software to third world regimes, sold a computerised communication system known as I.C.C.C. to Guatemala.

Israel is not the only counter-insurgency supplier in Guatemala. According to Guatemalan opposition sources, the government is being helped in sophisticated counter-insurgency techniques by advisers and experts from Argentina, Chile, Israel and the United States as well as by former agents of the late Nicaraguan dictator, Anastasio Somoza. After the Falkland War of 1982, Argentina ended its involvement.

Guatemala has been the focus of outside intervention in the region, as faraway powers show intense concern about its future. Involvement of the international right-wing alliance in Guatemala has been described as follows:

"There are close ties with Argentina and Chile. Israel has traditionally supplied arms, and now South Africa is helping build a weapons factory. Taiwan has the



second-largest diplomatic mission and provides technical aid." According to the Israeli State Television evening newscast of March 7, 1982, both Israel and South Africa were supplying arms to the government of Guatemala.

Israel has offered Guatemala participation in a variety of civilian training programmes, run by the Foreign Ministry's International Cooperation Division and focusing mainly on agriculture. Much has been made of the supposed Israeli involvement in the large-scale pacification pro-



gramme, initiated by the government to transform the native Indians of the highlands. Latin American Regional Reports quote one of the leaders of the programme in the Western highlands, Col. Eduardo Wöhler, who said, "The model of the kibbutz is planned firmly in the minds of my officials. I think it would be fascinating to turn our highlands into that kind of system." The programme is similar to the well-known United States "pacification" programme in Vietnam.

Guatemalan leaders have indeed been inspired by the Israeli kibbutz, and they are trying to establish cooperative communities among the Indians of the highlands. There is, however, little similarity between the kibbutz, a voluntary socialist commune, and the "strategic hamlets" being created by the Guatemalan Army in the highlands. These highland communities are based on a communal household and communal agriculture, clearly more efficient than traditional farming. According to the report "... women cook for the entire community in a newly built communal kitchen and leave their children in a daycare center so that, according to military planners, they can become 'productive' members of society. A communal hall for organised adult and youth educational civic activities has been built..." This is indeed a remarkable restructuring of communal life for the Indians, but it is not a kibbutz, a voluntary organisation, led by its own members. What is happening in Guatemala is clearly directed from above. The founders and members of the kibbutzim in Israel are light-years removed from the cultural traditions of the Guatemalan Indians. As a social experiment, what is being done in Guatemala is quite unusual, and it should be closely watched in the future.

The close contacts between Israel and Guatemala's military juntas have been discussed widely in the Israeli media. On January 25, 1982, Israeli State Television carried a British report on conditions in Guatemala. The announcer in Jerusalem referred to the regime in Guatemala as a "right-wing dictatorship," guilty of atrocities, and added that both Israel and Argentina were arming this regime.

One of the most amazing documents about the Israeli involvement in Guatemala is a short story, written as a first-person account by an Israeli operative in an unnamed Central American country. Stationed at the Israeli Embassy and working with a Colonel Garcia, the hero, who is involved in fighting "Indian terrorists," expresses his guilt and rebels against his superiors. He finds himself identifying with the terrorists; and this means the end of his career in the Israeli foreign service. The story includes reference to the computerized intelligence systems, and allusions to the similarities between actions against the Palestinians and actions against the "terrorists" in Central America. Since it was presented as a work of fiction, the story was not censured.

One writer who visited Guatemala City as a guest of the Unification Church commented on the ever-present Galil rifles and Uzi submachine guns. Another journalist who attended a "media conference" in Guatemala, also organised by the Unification Church, reported on the visible Israeli support for the regime, as well as the regime's visible enthusiasm for Israel. On July 8, 1983, Israeli State Television carried a report on Guatemala, which showed Israeli light weapons to be the standard equipment of the army. An Open Letter to the People and Government of Israel, asking them to stop their support for the regime in Guatemala, was sent on February 16, 1983 by the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, and by Servicio Pazy Justicia en America Latina (signed by Adolfo Perez Esquivel), to the Israeli Government. The letter was ignored by both the government and the Israeli media.

Reagan's contra aid plea bogged down in Congress

By Carol Giacomo
 Reuter

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's personal crusade to win urgent new aid for Nicaragua "contra" guerrillas fighting to topple the leftist Sandinista government is bogged down in Congress barely two months after he launched it.

Reagan's plea for an additional \$100 million for the contras, mainly for guns, was thrown out by the House of Representatives on March 20 and further vote defeats this week mean it is now unclear if and when new funds will be approved.

In the aftermath, Senate Republican leader Robert Dole, a Reagan ally, described the aid request as "fairly dormant."

Ironically, although Reagan is an extremely popular president and has mounted a vigorous campaign to rally public support for his Central America policy, opinion polls consistently show Americans oppose contra aid.

But congressional leaders are still pledged to try to pass some aid for the contras this year.

The House last month rejected Reagan's plan by a vote of 222-210 although the Republican-led Senate narrowly approved it by 53-47.

Then, when the issue was raised again, Republicans on Wednesday voted with opposition Democrats against the aid request in a surprise move, part of a calculated plan to defer the main battle and win a more favourable deal for Reagan at a later date.

Republicans have made clear they want to cast the issue in stark

terms, even if it means delaying aid, so that Democrats who vote against Reagan's proposal will be held accountable in November's congressional elections.

The debate was complicated by reports of a bitter leadership struggle in the guerrilla organisation and the start of an inquiry by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) into charges the rebels were engaged in gun-running and drug trafficking.

Reagan first authorised a secret programme of U.S. support for the contras after he took office in 1981.

The guerrillas had received over \$100 million in direct funds when Congress ended support in 1984 following reports the CIA had directed the mining of Nicaraguan harbours.

On Feb. 25 Reagan, moving to increase the U.S. commitment, requested approval of a further \$100 million aid, \$70 million of it for unrestricted military use.

He insisted the funds were required desperately and immediately to counter a Communist bridgehead in Central America, on the doorstep of the United States.

Assistant House Democratic leader Thomas Foley, a critic of Reagan's stance, said more aid would continue a failed policy of putting militarism before diplomacy and called Reagan's proposal "an act of war."

"We are on the eve of an historic decision. This vote is merely a downpayment of hundreds of millions, perhaps billions to come over many years in support of the contras," he wrote in a newspaper column last week.

Another Napoleon and maybe a Waterloo

U.S. intervention in El Salvador is turning sour. The civil war is 'stalemated', and is spreading. The government's power base is becoming more eroded. David Gardner reports.

SAN SALVADOR — President Ronald Reagan's success story in Central America — tiny, crowded and war-riven El Salvador where his administration said six years ago it would "draw the line" against Communist expansion in the western hemisphere — is turning sour.

The civil war between President Jose Napoleon Duarte's U.S.-financed and armed government and the country's powerful left-wing insurgency remains at stalemate and is spreading.

Economic recovery is unthinkable until the six-year old conflict, which now absorbs 40 per cent of El Salvador's budget, is resolved. "If things go swimmingly, by 1990 we'll be back to 1978," a U.S. diplomat in San Salvador admitted recently.

Politically, the mercurial Salvadorean president is looking isolated. His politically less than forthright handling of last September's kidnapping by rebels of his daughter Ines, emotionally charged as it was, lost him most of the confidence he had worked hard to build up within the virulently right-wing private sector and military hierarchy. The power base of his Christian Democrats has been badly eroded.

All this is a far cry from the victory claims of one year ago. Last May, President Duarte was in Washington on a triumphal mission. The Christian Democrats had just trounced the extreme right in congressional elections, with strong support from the military, the right's traditional ally and power behind the throne. President Duarte himself was

still suffused with the glow of popular support for the dialogue he attempted with rebel leaders in the autumn of 1984, which had brought real hope of an end to the blood-letting which has now claimed 60,000 lives.

A year later, Mr. Duarte's electoral victory has been dissipated into a political vacuum. The heavily U.S.-subsidised and sinking economy early this year was given belated, remedial austerity treatment. But these reforms look more linked to the successful prosecution of the war than to any model of development which might end it.

They also have reinforced the intransigence towards reform of landowners and industrialists, unsettled the army, and given new impulse to the major strike wave unrolled by a resurgent labour movement over the past seven months.

Dialogue with the insurgents has slipped out of the government's vocabulary. Yet the rebel forces of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMNL) this year, for the first time in the war, have successfully spread the conflict into all 14 of the country's provincial departments.

The September kidnapping by the guerrillas of Ines Duarte best marks the turn in Mr. Duarte's fortunes.

The rebels saw that by dragging out negotiations for her release and gradually raising their demands they could debilitate Mr. Duarte, who shelled all other state business despite the advice of both the army and the U.S.

For 40 days, El Salvador was virtually paralysed. In the eventual exchange of prisoners, the army was angered at having to surrender leading rebel political and military cadres in return for Ines, a companion, and 21 Christian Democrat mayors being held by the FMNL.

In the eyes of both the party and society, Mr. Duarte lost face, and his actions according to rebel leaders demonstrate the regime's fragility.

The resilient leader bounced back in January when he introduced a major economic package, centred on a devaluation of the colon, a range of tax increases, including one on windfall profits from the higher price of coffee. El Salvador's main export, and sops to the private sector and labour in the form of \$200 million in industrial credits and wage increases in the public sector.

The magnitude of economic ruin to which these measures were addressed is worth recalling. U.S. estimates of war damage between 1979 and 1984 — before the guerrillas made economic sabotage one of the main axes of their activity — are \$1.2 billion, excluding capital flight — where estimates run as high as \$3 billion — and forgone investment and industrial production.

In the same period, fixed capital investment fell by three-quarters in real terms. GDP by a quarter, and real purchasing power by two-thirds.

To hold the line against the FMNL, Washington by the end of this year will have poured in around \$2.2 billion in direct military and economic aid.

But the U.S., facing budgetary restrictions at home, is showing signs of wanting to turn its Sal-

vadorean enterprise into what one local academic who closely monitors the war describes as a "joint venture." West Germany, for example, governed by Christian Democrats, has begun providing significant development aid, and both U.S. and Salvadorean officials hope other European countries will emulate them.

January's measures, though they do little more than try to generate more Salvadorean cash for the war, could attract financial support from multilateral organisations such as the IMF.

It is the war, not money, which is the problem. In the same month the measures were introduced, FMNL sabotage of power installations caused more damage than in the previous four years.

Since the government appears unable to defeat the FMNL, the Salvadorean enterprise is better seen as a holding operation.

Added to this, trade unions, viciously repressed by the security-force-linked death squads in the early 1980s, have gradually rebuilt their strength around wages and conditions claims.

The left wing of the unions has used to the full the space opened by the 1984 peace talks, but the failure of those talks, along with the prostration of the economy and the government's failure to implement its reformist programme, has swung the big Christian Democrat unions into alliance with them. Together they mustered some 70,000 marchers in the capital on February 21, calling for renewed peace talks in the biggest demonstration since the war began.

The resurgence of labour seems to have temporarily sobered the far right. — Financial Times news feature.

'Yes, and I saw a fish too'

By Andy Crump

Do international symbols on hazardous goods mean anything to the people who may need them the most? Devised in the North by literate specialists, the symbols may be less "international" than was previously thought.

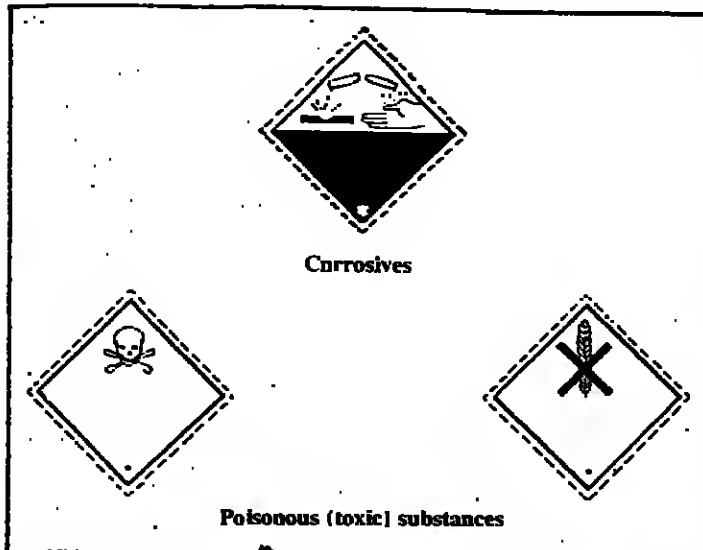
LONDON — Try standing in a stream to spear a fish for lunch. If you are not used to this, you will miss every time, because you will not allow for the refractive effect of the water on the image you see.

Practised spear fishermen make this allowance so naturally that they take it for granted. They may even forget to tell you about it, leaving you in frustration until you discover the secret for yourself.

So it is with reading symbols.

The "skull and crossbones," which so clearly indicates poison to the average inhabitant of an industrial country, may mean nothing at all to an aboriginal hunter in the Amazon or to a Sahelian nomad.

The International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO), an independent body based in Geneva, has devised a set of colours and symbols which it suggests should be used internationally to assist in



(Source: U.N. Committee of Experts on Transport of Dangerous Goods).

preventing accidents, reducing health hazards and coping with emergencies.

The new standards represent a voluntary agreement signed by the National Standard Agencies of 72 countries. The ISO is hoping that the symbols it has chosen will become standard all over the world.

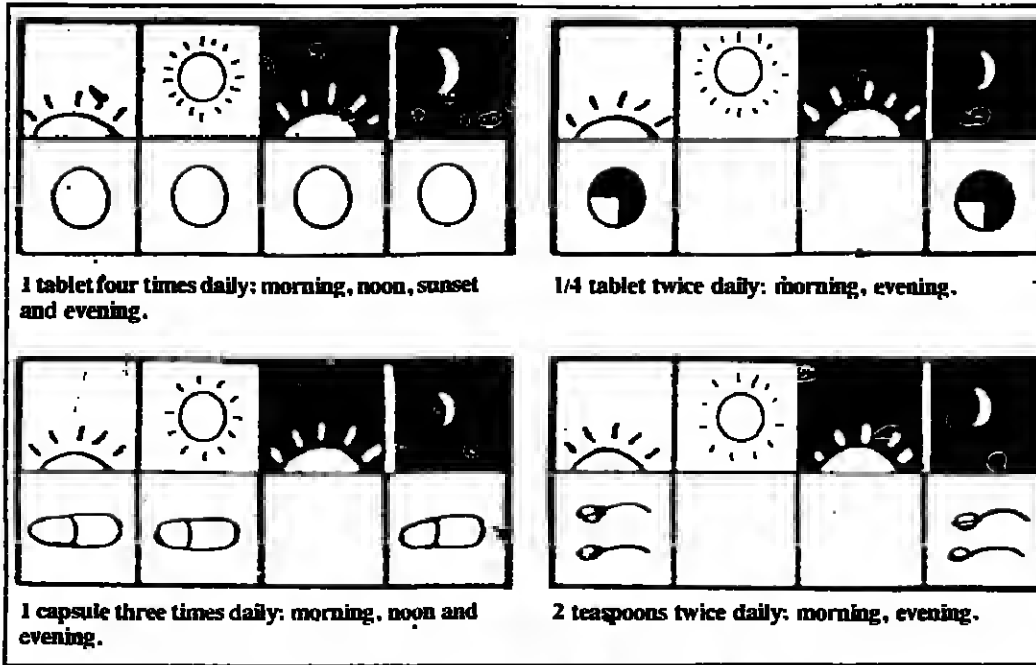
Four colours and three basic shapes have been adopted, each meant to carry specific meanings. These have been incorporated into a set of symbols for the labelling of hazardous products, devised by a U.N. committee, and the World Health Organisation has another set for signalling medicinal supplies and procedures.

A great deal of thought, not to mention expense, has gone into all these recommendations. But do they mean anything, particularly to the people who most need them?

Almost no research has been done to determine the "visual literacy" of populations in the Third World, where the dangers posed by badly labelled chemicals are often greatest. Visual literacy — the individual's capacity to extract information from a photograph or illustration — cannot be taken for granted.

George McBean, a graphic artist working for UNICEF, explains that rural audiences, with a low level of visual literacy, are often totally unable to understand any message from a poster, photograph or film. This is particularly noticeable in Africa because the traditional method of information sharing has been through speech, music or song.

International Safety Signs



(Source: The Handbook for Drug Retailers and Wholesalers, Nepal, UNICEF.)

McBean cites the example of the Rendile people in Kenya. A nomadic group never exposed to posters or photographs before, these people could not "read" pictures. Shown a magnified picture of a mosquito, they identified it as the aircraft of the Flying Doctor Service.

According to McBean, "in the villages and households of rural Africa there are virtually no pictures to look at. Owing to the lack of exposure to visual materials, people are not able to understand pictures." The reason, he suggests, is that they often do not realise that there is anything to understand.

The Mursi are nomadic cattle-herders who live in remote southern Ethiopia. A member of a film crew which was filming the tribe was surprised to find that most of the tribesmen looked at a picture-postcard with the horizon running vertically, instead of horizontally.

There is an urgent need for more research to promote a better understanding of the intricacies of visual literacy. Only then can deficiencies be rectified and the new "standard" symbols be useful in a global context.

Television companies may well be interested in helping to fund

such research to give themselves a better understanding of their audiences. When one of the young Mursi tribesmen was taken to Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, he was asked if he had seen television there.

"Yes," he replied, "and I saw fish too." When asked to explain this remark, it transpired that he made no distinction between the entertainment value of television and a fish tank in the lobby of the hotel at which he was staying — an Earthly feature.

Andy Crump is a London-based freelance journalist.

Gimmicks dominate world's top watch fair

By Peter Conrad
Reuter

BASLE, Switzerland — If you have \$220 to spare, why not join the 3,000 Americans carrying around a small piece of the Statue of Liberty on their wrist?

Or how about a watch you can play roulette with, one that tells you the phases of the moon or when, as a good Muslim, you are expected to pray?

Swiss watches, known worldwide for high quality workmanship and accuracy, are not just about telling the time anymore.

Judging by exhibits at this year's European Watch and Jewellery Fair running here from April 17 to 24, they are more about fashion, about conspicuous consumption and about innovation. And, of course, about gimmicks.

"Speciality has always been a feature of the Swiss market, a way for a manufacturer to make his collection recognizable," said Roland Schild, a spokesman for the fair's organisers. "But yes, some of them are gimmicks."

Nevertheless, they are a further sign that Swiss watchmakers are back and innovating again after a painful decade in which inexpensive Far Eastern watches — ironically invented in Switzerland — swept away all but the medium to top ranges of their industry.

Sales of the higher-priced models continue to rise while the worldwide success of the low-priced, "plastic" watch has pushed the Swiss back into the lower price sector, too.

A sign of new confidence is that arch enemies Japan and Hong Kong, previously forced to stage their own displays in hotels down the street, have been allowed into the fair proper for the first time ever this year.

Not without some reservations, according to Schild.

For three years running, angry Swiss exhibitors called in local police to haul Hong Kong watchmakers off to court for exhibiting copies of their watches just a few minutes walk away from the real thing.

They are only being let in after Hong Kong authorities guaranteed they would make sure no counterfeiters showed their wares here. Just in case, a tribunal will be standing by to step in to mediate in disputes between producers.

Japan and Hong Kong continue to export the largest number of watches, through their dominance of the bottom end of the market.

However, thanks to its success in the higher price range, Switzerland continues to lead in value

terms, with a record 4.3 billion francs (\$2.3 billion) worth of exports last year, a fact reflected in the variety of watches shown here.

Everything from a few dollars right up to a 710,000 Swiss franc (\$380,000) model with an 11.19 carat diamond covering the face and 36 diamonds in the bracelet, are on offer from the 267 Swiss watchmakers here.

In between there are watches made of stainless steel, rubber, gold, with one dial, two dials, ones that tell you the date, the time on the other side of the world, the current astrological sign and the phases of the moon.

Top of the list for someone looking for something out of the ordinary is a watch whose dial is made out of cut and polished metal from a meteorite.

Each watch, retailing here at around 7,500 Swiss francs (\$4,000), "comes with a certificate of cosmic origin" and has the precise point of impact recorded on the back.

According to manufacturers' records, the first hatch was made from a meteor which hit Mexico in 1776.

Others may prefer Longines' Las Vegas model. From the front it is a normal 1,250 franc (\$675) watch, but once turned over, the revolving rotor on the back can be used to turn it into a tiny roulette wheel.

For those with around 4,000 francs (\$2,200) to spare now are offering a golf ball shaped watch, adorned with a diamond-studded golf club.

Tissot are offering their rock watch, billed as the first watch made out of Swiss granite and selling well at \$195 a piece since its launch in the United States in October.

Then there is the Statue of Liberty watch from Ulysses, a small watchmaker in western Switzerland, launched to commemorate the statue's 100th anniversary.

Around 3,000 models containing one micron of copper from the statue have already been ordered for the U.S. market and the watch could also be sold later in Europe, the company said.

Talking to makers reveals no clear pattern of who actually buys some of the out-of-the-ordinary watches — except that they are probably rich.

"This has got absolutely nothing to do with gimmicks," says Jerry Simons of Longines about their Las Vegas model. "It is a high precision watch and people buy it for the beauty of its movement. But it is fun as well."

U.S. campaigns to protect intellectual property rights

By Jeanne S. Holden

WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration has announced a coordinated interagency strategy to improve the recognition of and protection given to intellectual property rights in the United States and overseas.

"The strategy and the initiatives we are outlining today put the rest of the world on notice that the United States will not tolerate the piracy that has emerged in this area of international business activity in recent years," U.S. Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter told reporters April 7.

The entire government is committed to protecting U.S. patents, copyrights and trademarks, Yeutter said. "We will use all the weapons at our disposal to defend our legal and trade interests."

Yeutter made the remarks during a joint press conference with Secretary of Commerce Malcolm

Baldrige and Deputy Assistant Attorney General Charles F. Rule.

"Intellectual property rights" refers to any form of ownership conferring the right to gain from something created by human ingenuity, such as patents, copyrights and trademarks. The U.S. policymakers stressed that the protection of such rights encourages investment in research and development and in new facilities. They identified three areas in which the Reagan administration believes vigorous actions are needed to improve protection: multilateral negotiations, bilateral negotiations, and domestic initiatives, including legislation.

"The United States will seek to negotiate a multilateral code or agreement on intellectual property within the general Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and will continue efforts in the World Intellectual Property

Organisation to improve existing international conventions," Yeutter told reporters.

In addition, the Reagan administration believes "a consensus is evolving among U.S. trading partners that the GATT anti-counterfeiting code be brought to a negotiating conclusion early in the new round GATT negotiations and that it be promptly implemented," he said.

The trade ministers of the contracting parties to the GATT are expected to meet in September to launch a new round of multilateral trade negotiations and the Reagan administration has identified intellectual property rights protection as a negotiating priority.

The GATT counterfeiting code was negotiated during the Tokyo Round of multilateral trade negotiations (1973-1979) but was never implemented.

In terms of bilateral negotiations, Yeutter said that the United States will make use of the full array of U.S. trade and other laws to encourage other nations to provide timely, adequate and effective protection for intellectual property rights. He pointed out that the United States is consulting with many trading partners including Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Taiwan, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore.

Yeutter said that the Trade and Tariff Act of 1984 instructs the U.S. Trade Representative to consider the protection that a less developed country gives U.S. intellectual property rights in making all decisions concerning benefits under the U.S. Generalised System of Preferences (GSP). GSP is a programme that provides duty-free entry for some 3,000 products from 140 less developed countries and territories.

Yeutter noted that the United States has made progress in intellectual property negotiations with several trading partners including Taiwan and Singapore, and suggested that the threat of losing GSP benefits may be providing "motivation."

Secretary of Commerce Baldrige pointed out that, in cases where there is no progress in trade negotiations, the United States will consider instituting investigations under Section 301 of the 1974 trade law. The law authorises the president to take all appropriate action, including retaliation, to counter any practice of a foreign government that violates an international trade agreement or is found to be unjustifiable, unreasonable or discriminatory and which burdens or restricts U.S. trade. Last October, President Reagan initiated a Section 301 investigation of inadequate intellectual property laws in Korea.

The policymakers said that strong action to protect intellectual property rights is also needed domestically. In a statement released at the press briefing, U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese said: "If we want to encourage other nations to enact meaningful intellectual property protection, we have the obligation to make sure that our own laws do the job properly" — U.S. Information Agency.

Japanese prefecture hopes to avoid casualties in major quake

By Eric Hall
Reuter

SHIZUOKA, Japan — Over the past decade Japan's Shizuoka prefecture has spent hundreds of millions of dollars to protect its 3.6 million people from the major earthquake it reckons could happen soon.

In the reinforced earthquake disaster operations room at the prefectural hall, looking like the war bunker of a besieged fortress, secretary to the governor Hiroshi Miyakawa describes how Shizuoka has constructed quake-proof shelters, erected an early warning system and thrown up coastal breakwaters.

"I must say there are no other places that have such a developed plan. We hope it will become a

model for similar counter-measures around the world," he said.

Each year, numerous small earthquakes shake Japan, gently reminding people that the next tremor, or the next, could be the cataclysm. When the earth does crack, the Japanese count their victims in tens and hundreds of thousands.

But Shizuoka now believes it can avoid any casualties at all in the next major earthquake, which the local government is sure will come in the not too distant future.

Most of Japan is situated on the crack between two of the huge floating "plates" upon which the earth's surface unsteadily rests. Quakes occur when these crunch together.

Historical and seismic data have convinced Shizuoka that it will

soon face a quake as high as 8.4 on the Richter scale in nearby Suruga Bay, about 150 km southwest of Tokyo.

The worst quake this century hit Tangshan in northern China in 1976, killing at least 250,000 people. It measured 7.8 on Richter. The 1923 earthquake which laid Tokyo low and killed 150,000 of its citizens touched 7.9 on the open-ended scale.

Operations director Toshiro Sugiyama said that, with no warning, an 8.4 quake would cause tremors, fires and a tidal wave that would kill outright 11,000 people in Shizuoka, injure over 100,000, and damage about half of all homes.

But with a warning, there could be no casualties at all and only a quarter of households would suffer damage, he said.

Around Shizuoka, 148 seismic instruments are monitored 24 hours a day for unusual movements in the earth. If they pick up the danger signals, citizens will be warned by radio, television and public loudspeakers to start the programmed evacuation of danger zones, Sugiyama said.

Each locality has its earthquake centre, offering a refuge and emergency supplies. Mitsuo Sezaki, head of one new centre in Shizuoka city, said about 70 per cent of families keep personal earthquake kit, including seven days' food supplies, protective clothing, candles and other essentials.

The predicted disaster has been dubbed the great Tokai earthquake, after the name of the area. "I do not completely believe in these prediction systems. It is not a science as such," said Professor

Akira Saito of Tokai University, an expert on tidal waves caused by quakes.

Secretary Miyakawa also holds out little hope that planning could save big urban centres. "With 12 million in a densely populated area such as Tokyo, effective counter-measures are impossible," he said.

Almost all Japan's threatened areas have some form of earthquake drill. But the scale of Shizuoka's plans are unprecedented and Yasuaki Saito, chief of staff at the operations centre, said that its reputation for safety is, ironically, making people over-confident.

Miyakawa added: "When we first announced there would be a big quake, people were worried. But the Japanese are used to natural disasters... and now they seem

confident. "People are not moving out of Shizuoka. On the contrary, they feel safer here than in big cities like Tokyo and Osaka."

The Tokai quake would hit much of Shizuoka with a top force seven on the Japanese scale, which measures local seismic intensity, whereas Richter gauges intensity at the epicentre.

At this level, normal buildings would shake violently and collapse. Humans would be thrown to the ground.

Last October, Tokyo suffered its worst tremor for 50 years, measuring five on the Japanese scale. Buildings swayed dizzily but quake-resistant buildings survived, this time. The Tokai quake would register at least five in Tokyo, possibly higher.

Shrinking West German population forces difficult choices

By Paul Holmes
Reuter

BONN — West Germany's shrinking population is confronting planners with uncomfortable choices as they wrestle with the task of steering one of the world's most affluent societies into the next century.

West Germany's birth rate has for years been the world's lowest and with no sign of a "baby boom," official forecasts predict that the population could dwindle to less than 46 million by 2030 from 61 million today.

The steady decline, reflected in a surplus of deaths over births in every year since 1972, has already led to plans for longer military service for future generations of conscripts.

From 1986, national service will be extended to 18 months from 15 in order to maintain the strength of West Germany's armed forces at 495,000 men.

But politicians and economic and social planners say the gravest effects will be felt as a result of a marked shift in the age structure, with the over-60s accounting for a third of the population in 45 years time against one-fifth today.

The good news, according to recent studies, is that the changing shape of the population means that no-one of working age is likely to be without a job by the turn

of the century. The bad news is that there will not be enough wage earners to maintain the generous level of state pensions which the elderly now enjoy in Europe's strongest economy and pay for the necessary additional health care facilities.

"At present, 100 wage earners pay for 54 pensions," Labour Minister Norbert Blum said recently. "By the year 2130 they will be paying for 112 pensions."

Government officials say the problem will become acute in the next decade and will probably result in lower pensions and higher social security payments from those in work.

The independent Kiel University Institute for World Economy has warned that the burden could force more and more workers to seek jobs in the black economy, leading to a possible total collapse of the social security system.

A study commissioned by the interior ministry in 1984 also forecast a major impact on education, state finances and the ethnic mix of the population, with foreigners making up 12 per cent by 2030 against 7.5 per cent now.

West Germany's birth rate has now settled at about 1.3 children per fertile woman compared with the 2.2 children needed for a population to remain constant.

Yet while the level is the world's lowest, most industrialised countries are facing similar trends and demographers say they have no clue why West Germany should hold the record or how to turn the tide.

This year the centre-right government has increased tax-free allowances for children sixfold and introduced payments of 600 marks (\$180) per month for parents of new babies for up to one year after the birth.

Family Affairs Minister Rita Süssmuth has said the measures are designed to strengthen the place of the family in a society she believes is in danger of forgetting what it is like to have children around.

But she has denied that the benefits are aimed at promoting childbirth and demographers say they expect the impact on population trends to be negligible.

"You cannot promote a baby boom as if you were selling too-

thpaste," the director of the government-funded Federal Institute for Population Research, professor Wilfried Linke told Reuters in an interview.

"I cannot imagine anyone having a baby for Germany." The population peaked at 62 million in 1974 in the wake of a post-war baby boom. Experts say the only specific German factor in the subsequent drop appears to be that not having children is socially more acceptable here than elsewhere.

They point instead to more general factors in the affluent world such as fewer marriages and more divorces, more women at work and the use of reliable methods of birth control.

Linke said the legacy of Nazi Germany, when "master race" theories were used to encourage population growth, had made it particularly difficult for West Germany to institute an official birth promotion policy.

A woman leads German workers into battle

Monika Wulf-Mathies is used to the attention she attracts as Germany's leading woman trade unionist. Nor does she see why a middle-class graduate should not be the champion of some of Germany's lowest paid workers. Rupert Cornwell interviewed her.

BONN — Germans do tend to get up early. But that hardly explains why TV cameras turned up at 7.30 a.m. one chilly morning a few weeks ago to cover a meeting of municipal cleaners at a depot in Cologne in support of the pay claim of one of the country's less glamorous employment sectors.

The object of the media attention was the rather more glamorous main speaker at the rally, whose smart suit and pearl necklace was in contrast to the orange jackets of her audience of 50-odd, many of whom had already done a pre-dawn shift on the city streets.

Monika Wulf-Mathies, president of the OETV public workers' union, was making one of many stops in a nationwide campaign to mobilise the shopfloor behind the union's claims in its most recent wage bargaining round, and against the government's clumsy efforts to tighten the West German strike laws.

Mrs. Wulf-Mathies has grown used to the fuss which followed her election in September 1982, as the first — and so far only — female leader of a major trade union, in a country not noted for blazing trails in the field of women's em-

ancipation. Her job as head of the 12 million-strong OETV, second largest after the IG-Metall engineering union of the 17 affiliates of the central DGB labour federation, makes her one of the most powerful, and certainly one of the most visible, women in West Germany. For 44-year-old Mrs. Wulf-Mathies, however, it is her job, not her sex, which matters.

She says: "I'm not even sure that women have a particularly tough time here. There is discrimination against women. They have to be better to achieve the same career as a man and they suffer most when the economy goes wrong. The situation is unsatisfactory — but where else, apart from Scandinavia, is bet-

ter?" The OETV is a specially broad church, with members ranging from well-paid Luftwaffe pilots to dustmen and sewage workers; and the press remains fascinated that a woman, from a comfortable middle-class background should be fighting on behalf of the lowest paid.

"Better pay deals have helped by making the unions more credible: so has our campaign against the cuts in benefits brought in by the centre right," Mrs. Wulf-Mathies said.

Mrs. Wulf-Mathies is not ready to guess what form future protest will take. But she was surprised, she says, by the strength of the resistance to the amendment.

— Financial Times news feature.

New Yorkers trace Marcos footsteps

By Jon Kalish
Reuter

NEW YORK — Tired of the Empire State building? Bored with the United Nations and that same old New York skyline?

For anyone who wants a different way to see the city, magazine editors Lee Bearson and Russell Miller have devised a new walking tour — the New York of Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos.

See where Imelda bought costly emeralds and \$40,000 worth of flowers and where Ferdinand banked.

Stroll by the elegant property worth over \$300 million which estate agents say they bought and managed for the couple while they ruled the Philippines.

The first walking tour "in the footsteps of Ferdinand and Imelda" took place on a recent Sunday and drew about 40 people.

They glared at the former Philippine consulate where employees are said to have removed a Picasso and a Van Gogh after the Marcos family fled Manila at the end of February.

"We don't use a bullhorn (loudspeaker) because we decided that would be too totalitarian," joked Bearson, who conducted the tour with Miller.

The two wore cheap white Panama hats and yellow T-shirts, the colour of the movement that ousted Marcos and brought Corason

Aquino to power in Manila.

Neither is an expert on Philippine history or politics but both are obsessed with the Aquino government's efforts to reclaim what is believed by many to be the ill-gotten gains of the Marcos family.

As Bearson and Miller strolled around the city centre pointing out locations where Ferdinand and Imelda spent some of their "hidden wealth", the tour guides expressed mixed feelings.

"It's an outrage," said Bearson. "As an American I feel pity for the Philippine people and I'm furious about all the foreign aid we sent to Marcos."

"But the more one reads about Marcos, you can't help but laugh. And that's how our tour came to be. We wanted to show the people of New York the sheer folly of it all, the incredible details."

Some stories of Imelda Marcos's shopping spree certainly are astonishing. The third stop was in front of a jewellery store in the heart of the Diamond District.

Imelda Marcos dropped by Izzy Fischang's jewellery store one day in 1983, the tour guides said.

"Imelda bought a carved emerald bead necklace."

"She put down a deposit of \$18,000 and later paid another \$100,000. We haven't seen the necklace but we're sure it's lovely," they added.

The tour also stopped in front of the offices of the New York Land Company, owned by Joseph and Ralph Bernstein, who recently testified before a U.S. congressional committee that they conducted many of the Marcos property deals in New York.

Among these was the purchase of the \$51 million Crown office building on an elegant Fifth Avenue corner.

Just down the street from the Bernsteins' headquarters is the 'Macrae florist shop which counted Imelda Marcos as one of its best customers. In February 1984, the Philippine first lady was said to have spent \$40,000 on flowers there.

"Imelda just loved flowers," said Bearson. "When she stayed at the Waldorf Towers, she ordered \$5,000 worth of flowers for her arrival and \$1,000 worth of bouquets every day that she stayed there."

But the Marcos couple did not just spend, they saved as well.

The Philippines Commission on Good Government has said they hold between \$500 million and \$1.5 billion worth of assets in Switzerland. In front of Swiss Bank Corp's office on Fifth Avenue, Miller listed details of Marcos accounts.

"This is only the second time in history the secrecy of the Swiss banks has been broken by government decree," he said.

"The only other time the Swiss government thought it was necessary to break that secrecy was right after World War Two when the Swiss banks confiscated all the assets of Nazi Germany."

The tour stopped outside the luxury, black glass Olympic Towers, where Bearson and Miller said five Marcos-owned apartments were still occupied by their relatives.

Excitement rises over Bayern-Werder clash

BREMEN, West Germany (R) — Black-market tickets for Tuesday's vital league clash between Werder Bremen and Bayern Munich were being snapped up for up to 1,000 marks (\$455) Monday amid a big step-up in security measures.

With the game expected to decide the destiny of this year's West German title, tension has risen to fever pitch.

All 40,000 tickets at the Weser Stadium were sold out some time ago and a further 15,000 people are expected to watch the match on a giant screen in Bremen's Cathedral Square.

The game is also being shown live in the Bremen city hall and at Munich's Olympia Stadium as well as nationwide in homes served by cable television.

One tout said his phone had not

November that the wiry striker has not played since.

Werder fans have threatened to take revenge on Augenthaler but the player said he was unruffled.

"I know they're after me but they won't get to me," he said. "Whistling doesn't bother me. They will just motivate me and the team. We have nothing to lose."

Voeller has just resumed full training after a groin operation and could be set to make his long-awaited return.

Werder, who last won the league in 1965, have led all season but the gap was recently cut to two points. Reigning champions Bayern have a better goal difference and would go top if they win — with just one match left to play on Saturday.

Safety promised for 1988 Games

By Stephen Parry
Reuter

SEOUL — Teams taking part in the 1988 Seoul Olympics can have full confidence in security measures at the Games, a leading organiser said Monday.

Lee Ha-Woo, secretary-general of the Seoul Olympic Organising Committee, declined to give details of security arrangements but told a news conference:

"They are aimed at preventing terrorist acts, sabotage and other violence and are such that all participating nations can have full confidence in them."

Security precautions are much in evidence in Seoul this week with the arrival of 650 delegates from 152 countries to attend a meeting of the Association of National Olympic Committees.

Lee said there was no indication that North Korea, which fought a three-year war against the South ending in 1953, planned any direct action aimed at disrupting this week's meeting, the Asian Games in September or the Olympics in 1988.

"But we are a cautious people

and we are taking all the necessary measures and can guarantee that the 1988 Games will be the safest ever," Lee said.

North Korea has demanded that the Games be staged jointly by Pyongyang and Seoul and has threatened a Soviet-bloc boycott if its demands are not met.

Neither North Korea nor Cuba, who have expressed support for the North's position, have sent delegates to this week's meeting.

In two rounds of talks with the North, Seoul has indicated it would be willing to allow Pyongyang to stage some preliminary team events and the cycling road race but has refused the North's demand for a half-share of the Games.

The North has now apparently dropped its insistence on an equal split, Lee declined to say whether Seoul would offer more events to Pyongyang when Olympic officials from the two sides meet for the third time in Switzerland in June.

Despite the boycott threat, Lee said the Seoul organisers were optimistic that there would be full participation at the 1988 Games.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Cologne to appeal UEFA ruling

COLOGNE, West Germany (R) — West Germany's Cologne said Monday they would appeal against a decision banning them from playing the home leg of their UEFA Cup soccer final with Real Madrid at their own Mueggersdorfer Stadium. UEFA's Control and Disciplinary Committee ruled Sunday the second-leg match on May 8 should be played at least 350 kilometres from Cologne after the club's supporters were involved in violence during a semifinal clash in Belgium last week. Cologne President Peter Weiland said Monday the club would appeal before UEFA's deadline on Wednesday and the West German Football Federation (DFB) said it would support their move. Club Vice-President Karl-Heinz Thielen said Cologne would stress their unblemished record in some 140 European games and point out they had no control over security arrangements at Wednesday's match in Kortrijk.

Borussia Dortmund fires trainer

DORTMUND, West Germany (R) — West German First Division soccer club Borussia Dortmund have sacked their Hungarian trainer Pal Csernai after Saturday's 4-0 defeat by Stuttgart. The defeat left Dortmund in 16th place in the 18-team league and in danger of relegation. Csernai, 53, formerly trainer of Bayern Munich, is the sixth First Division trainer to lose his job this season.

Gornik Zabrze wins Polish league

WARSAW (R) — Gornik Zabrze Sunday captured the Polish First Division title for the second straight year with a 1-0 away win over Lech Poznan in their second to last match. Main contenders Legia Warszawa lost unexpectedly in an away match 1-0 to bottom-ranking Zagłębie Sosnowiec, already doomed to play in the Second Division next season. Gornik will also play in the Cup final on May 2 against GKS Katowice, fifth in the standings.

Steffi Graf scores second tournament win in a row

AMELIA ISLAND, Florida (R) — Steffi Graf scrambled to a 6-4, 5-7, 7-6 (7-3) victory over compatriot West German Claudia Kohde-Kilsch Sunday to win the WTA Tennis Championships and her second tournament in two weeks.

The hard-fought match, which included a penalty point assessed against Graf because her father was charged with coaching from the gallery by sending her signals, took two hours and 30 minutes.

Graf, who won \$40,000 Sunday, defeated Chris Evert-Lloyd last week. Sunday's win marked the first back-to-back tournament victories on the women's circuit since American Pam Shriver won two titles in a row last May.

After losing the first set, Kohde-Kilsch quickly went to a 3-0 lead in the second set, at which point, Graf's father appeared to be sending hand signals to his daughter, prompting referee Lee Jackson to award Kohde-Kilsch a point.

"She's not a good person," Mr. Graf later said, referring to Jackson. "Ever since Steffi was very young she's been against us. There's a prejudice against European players, especially Steffi. They don't want them to get to the top."

"A lot of words came into my mind," the 16-year-old Steffi Graf said. "but I held back. He just waved his hand. It had nothing to do with coaching."

Golf returns to mainland China

By Jeff Bradley
Associated Press Writer

ZHONGSHAN, China — The caddies use English-language golf slang but a ball that veers the wrong way can end up in a rice paddy on one of the three operating golf courses in China.

After nearly four decades of communist rule, gao-er-fu (golf in Chinese) is back.

The three courses in play are at Zhongshan, Zhuhai and Shenzhen in the southern province of Guangdong, and eight more are planned around the country.

Within sight of the tombs of 13 Ming Dynasty emperors, Peking International Golf Club is set to open next month on a dusty sweep of land below Longevity of Heaven (Tianshou) Hills.

Four more courses eventually will surround the capital, with others in Tianjin, Dalian and Shanghai, where the game was popular with expatriates before World War II.

Tang Dynasty courtiers played a stick-and-ball game known as "beating the pellet" 1,000 years ago, but today's golf boom is an oddity here.

The explanation for its revival lies in tourist dollars and China's plan to host the Asian Games in 1990, with golf an official event.

In addition, said one Peking sports official, "as the Chinese get better and better off, those who get rich before others might have access to the game in four or five years."

There was no such advantage for farmer's son Tan Guohua, and 17 other teen-agers in China's first golf squad with salaries, dormitory and equipment provided by the Zhongshan club, owned by Hong Kong millionaire Henry Fok and his partners.

Course manager Aylwin Tai said that two years ago, the club recruited 200 of the most athletic-looking high school students from the Sanxiang commune.

"We asked them to form a big circle and marked them on a scale of one to 10 on their look of determination and how well they could copy a golf swing," he said.

After 16 months' instruction, some are playing off 8 to 10 handicaps. Four of the girls swept 13 prizes last month at the Hong Kong Ladies Amateur Championship.

shipship.

"I'd never heard of golf before," said Tan, whose lanky build and classic swing bode well for his golfing future, if he could contain a beginner's tendency to duck-hoof.

The 5,991-metre Zhongshan course was designed by the Arnold Palmer organisation with Bermuda grass, links-style rolling fairways and cavernous white bunkers. It cost \$2.3 million and is blessed by lush greens and tees, with a few bald patches on the young fairways.

So far, it's attracted only 200 members from Hong Kong and Japan.

"We need 600 rounds a month to break even. Now we have about 100," said Tai, who is planning package tours from America to fill up his plush clubhouse, with its video bar and jacuzzi baths.

Early problems came from peasant children. "They ran onto the fairway to pick up balls, thinking they were lost," said Tai.

Now more accustomed to plaid-trousered foreigners striking dimpled white dots, enterprising farmers are reselling stray balls at \$2 a piece.

Walking two water buffalo near the third hole, peasant Zhang Xiequan, 35, said at first she resented the course. "My cattle had no more place to walk," she said. Now she welcomes the jobs and income it welcomes.

Fok, an 18-handicapper, said he

built the par-72 course to lure more tourists and China Sea oil men to his adjacent hot spring resort.

A billion people may be asking what kind of sport this is and thinking it's only for capitalists. But in Saudi Arabia, everyone is playing golf in the desert," the course owner added, thinking of the sport's long-term future in open-door China.

With interest from Communist Party officials, including retired politburo member Wang Zhen, China has formed a golf association and entered the sport in its national games this year.

Eleven young men and five women, selected from more than 1,000 candidates, are receiving free coaching at golf clubs in Japan, where developers see a big potential in Chinese golf.

Japan Golf Promotion Inc. has invested \$4.4 million on an 18-hole course and amusement park in Zhuhai Special Economic Zone near Macao, but the zone's failure to take off as a business and tourism centre, and the hurdle of obtaining visas, has limited membership to 350.

The company is nevertheless building a second course in Peking, where several thousand diplomats, businessmen and other foreign residents are potential backers. Membership at the Ming Tombs course will start at \$20,000.

W. German Bernd Schuster defends himself in interview

BONN (R) — Barcelona soccer star Bernd Schuster has hit back at what he calls the "blatant lie" that he demanded \$450,000 to play again for West Germany.

In an interview with the magazine Bunte released Monday, Schuster said he was the victim of "half-truths, lies and intrigues" and that he saw little chance of playing again for his country.

Reports in the West German media recently suggested that national team manager Franz Beckenbauer's attempts to persuade Schuster to play in the Mexico World Cup finals had partly failed because of his financial demands.

Schuster told Bunte he had never demanded money to play for West Germany, though it was

true he was having talks with a shoe firm over the extension of a sponsorship contract worth one million marks and that the contract included a clause saying he would play again for his country.

Schuster also said he thought Beckenbauer had done little for the national team. "I'm afraid West Germany will go out after the opening group matches in Mexico. Beckenbauer will pack it in and go back to playing golf in Kitzbuehel (his Austrian home)," he said.

He said he would like to return to West Germany to play for Hamburg next season but that Barcelona were demanding an unrealistic \$5.9-million transfer fee.



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FRIENDS OF ARCHAEOLOGY

announce that

The field trip to Wadi Hasa scheduled for April 24/25 has been postponed. The new date for the field trip will be announced in the next Friends of Archaeology Newsletter.

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CANCELLATION OF "ONCE UPON A MATTRESS" PERFORMANCES

The American Centre regrets to announce that the performances of the musical comedy "Once Upon A Mattress" by the Minnesota Opera have been cancelled.

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THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN THE JORDAN VALLEY AUTHORITY WADI ARABA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The Jordan Valley Authority announces the extension of the period for submission of engineering consultants offers for Wadi Araba Development project until 12:00 Saturday the 17th of May 1986.

Dr. Eng. Munther Haddadin
President.

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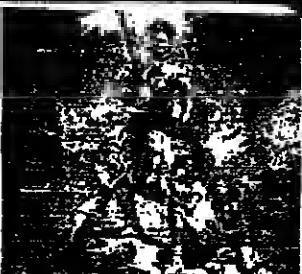
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COCOON
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Cine-Theatre Philadelpia

Tel: 634144 - 634149

STARMAN (Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:15

Cinema RAGHADAN

Tel: 622198

ADAM & EVE (Colour)

Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00

Cinema OPERA

Abdell, behind Alfa offices

Tel: 675573
WIFE ON VACATION (Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One sterling	1.5110/20	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3855/65	Canadian dollars
	2.2055/65	West German marks
	2.4885/900	Dutch guilders
	1.8510/20	Swiss francs
	45.05/10	Belgian francs
	7.0300/50	French francs
	1513/1514	Italian lire
	171.60/70	Japanese yen
	7.1150/200	Swedish crowns
	7.0250/300	Norwegian crowns
	8.1450/500	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	342.25/342.75	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Lack of investor enthusiasm for shares and government bonds sent prices lower with the thinness of business tending to exaggerate some movements, dealers said.

At 1400 GMT the F.T. 30 was down 9.6 to 1,393.5 having again recrossed the 1,400 level during the morning after a slightly firmer opening. The 1430 FTSE 100 index was off 11.7 to 1,668.5.

Allied Lyons was the day's feature rising to 320 in early business before settling back to close 15p higher at 313. The rise was powered by speculation that Elders PLC could be in a position to renew its bid for the company in the summer following its share dealings with BHP, dealers said.

Dealers suggested the recent Elders stake build-up in BHP and BHP's reciprocal buying of Elders' shares should reduce Elders' borrowing requirements to fund its bid for Allied. It could be enough to take in Allied even if its 2.6 billion Canadian dollar bid for Hiram Walker's drinks division succeeds.

Part of the wider market's listlessness was ascribed to mark down following the generally anticipated interest rate cuts recently from Britain, the U.S. and Japan, dealers said.

Government bonds closed with declines of up to ¼ point in the longer end as operators took profits after last week's U.K. clearing bank base rate reduction to 10½ per cent from 11 per cent.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Many confusing conditions can happen early in your dealings with other people, so watch out and be sure you have all of your information straight. Put more order in your life.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Study better methods for handling your routine work and employ them for excellent results. Be more cooperative.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Try to perfect some talent you possess and then it will work just fine and become profitable to you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) The situation at home could be perplexing, so listen to what kin are saying and be cooperative with the aid of an associate.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You may have a slow start in the morning, but persevere. Your activities can work out well later in the day.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) You need more monetary security, so listen to what a clever associate has to suggest to you and follow the advice.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Know what your partners want of you. Later, be more home-oriented and entertain guests this evening.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Some worry may have you confused in the morning. Forget it for a while and go out shopping or visiting.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) If you change your attitude toward a good friend, you could regret it later. Get busy at building up your income.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Taking any risks with those who have any power over your affairs would be unwise. Maintain poise.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) It is not the right time to make that change you have in mind, but fine for having a good time with friends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Responsibilities of a practical nature have something puzzling about them, so set them aside for a while.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Discuss matters with associates until you have achieved a harmonious agreement without ill will.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be very precise and discriminating and would do well in professions that will require just such talents and qualities, but should early be taught to be more understanding of others and not be so critical.

THE Daily Crossword by S.E. Wilkinson

ACROSS

- 1 Petitions & pleas
- 5 Burroughs
- 10 Advertising
- 13 Cafe au —
- 14 John Le —
- 15 Pick over
- 16 Isolated mesa
- 17 Primitive painter
- 19 Radio & TV
- 21 Cravat
- 22 Gr. letter
- 23 Harb
- 25 Music hall
- 27 Toothed wheels
- 28 Plymouth colony leader
- 31 Perfume var.
- 33 Comic
- 37 "Here a chick, there a chick"
- 38 Ornate
- 40 Business expenditure
- 41 Deprive
- 42 Cinnamon
- 43 Data
- 44 Impede
- 45 "has a hangy look"
- 47 Arrangement
- 48 Sport
- 53 Chutney
- 55 Means —
- 56 Uniform color
- 58 US post
- 62 "What's — for me?"
- 63 Baccarat
- 64 "Bent O'Grady"
- 65 Glean mount
- 66 Teeny
- 67 "Seven Year itch" actor
- 68 Hazen

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

DOWN

- 1 Deplete
- 2 Actor's prop
- 3 Comic Rader
- 4 Scent sign
- 5 Heart chart, for short
- 6 Shoot out
- 7 Imposing
- 8 Ready for action
- 9 Cartoonist Gardner
- 10 Defenestrator
- 11 Casual
- 12 Lohengrin's
- 15 President La.
- 18 Bombastic
- 20 Devoured
- 24 Praised arms
- 25 Holdings
- 28 Whiskey
- 30 Pissed need
- 31 The 1
- 32 Angel's overheard?
- 33 Fundamentals
- 34 Tense
- 35 Pretentious
- 36 Fobles
- 40 Buddy
- 42 Line it up
- 46 Top-notch
- 48 Jostle
- 50 Poem part
- 51 Getting by
- 52 Moore & Newirth
- 53 Surge
- 54 Skin
- 55 Boost
- 57 Seed covering
- 60-61 or 62-63
- 61 Seminal substance

Iraq seeks to double oil production quota

ABU DHABI, U.A.E. (AP) — Iraqi Oil Minister Qassem Taqi was quoted Monday as demanding that his country's OPEC oil production quota be more than doubled from 1.2 to 2.3 million barrels per day.

Mr. Taqi, currently attending the OPEC ministerial conference in Geneva, told the Abu Dhabi-based newspaper Al Itihad "to increase Iraq's oil production quota from 1.2 to 2.3 million per day is scientific and objective even if his country's current exporting capacity was less than two million barrels per day, he said.

Iraq "will insist on demanding its actual and just quota of 2.3 million barrels per day and not one barrel less," the minister said.

He considered that would be feasible under the projected new OPEC ceiling of 16.3 million barrels per day which reportedly has been approved by 10 against three member countries of the 13-nation cartel in the Geneva conference.

Report urges dismissal of heads of 5 Israeli banks over stock market crash

TEL AVIV (AP) — A commission of inquiry has demanded the resignations of the heads of Israel's Central Bank and four largest banks for their roles in a 1983 stock market crash that helped trigger Israel's economic crisis.

The 560-page document published Sunday said the bankers are "unfit for their positions," because of their illegal manipulation of bank share prices for six years. The practice ended with the crash which wiped out an estimated \$2 billion in public savings.

The report raises "a question about how the banks would be seen abroad," said Moshe Sanbar, former head of the state-owned Bank of Israel. He said it threatened "the channel through which we bring foreign currency into Israel."

In addition to demanding the resignation of Bank of Israel Chief Moshe Mandelbaum and other top bankers, the report called for major reforms in Israel's banking system and stock market.

It also recommended Prime Minister Shimon Peres' coalition government consider criminal prosecutions, saying the findings "apparently indicated a breach of law by individuals or companies." It did not specify who should be charged.

The banks had advertised their shares as a secure and profitable investment and even lent their clients money to investors who wanted to buy the shares.

The practice of loaning money to buy shares and the banks' trading in their own shares were banned by the state's companies ordinance, according to the report obtained by the Associated Press.

According to testimony taken by the commission, internal memos were circulated by the banks advising investment counselors to continue telling clients that the banks stood behind their

Mr. Taqi accused "some" OPEC oil ministers of being "irrational" and hindering a collective agreement on means to increase oil prices. He did not name those member states but he was obviously alluding to Iran, Libya and Algeria, the three countries who are on the opposite fence of the reported agreement.

The Iraqi minister warned of a shrinking OPEC influence in the international market following the retreat of its total oil trade from 50 to 30 per cent.

He said Iraq's exporting capacity would increase to 3.1 million barrels per day by the end of 1987, when two pipelines passing through Turkey and Saudi Arabia would be finished.

Sources in the Organisation of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Geneva said the group might be ready to announce its quota for the rest of the year, which they said will be 16.3 million BPD, rising to 17.3 million in the last quarter of 1986.

shares even when the market was beginning to show signs of strain. The report said that misleading an investor about buying or selling a share was a violation of the securities law.

The report noted that fraudulently influencing the movement of share prices upward violated the securities law and was punishable by up to three years in jail plus a fine.

"It appears to us that the attorney general should examine the facts included in the report which indicate an apparent breach of the law by individuals or companies, and should decide if appropriate proceedings should be taken," said the report.

Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir did not immediately indicate if he would bring criminal prosecutions.

The commission found that the annual return on bank shares was 32 per cent — far above any other investment in the market. By the time the stock market collapsed, 35 per cent of all liquid funds were invested in bank shares.

The heavy commitment to bank shares also contributed to inflation, which rose from 48 per cent in 1978 to 445 per cent in 1984.

"As a liquid instrument, (bank shares) had no comparison in the whole world. They were seen as riskless and attracted money from the public," the report said. "The rush of money created demand, the demand created price rises, the price rises created further demand and so on in an endless circle."

The commission, headed by Supreme Court Justice Moshe Bejski, was appointed by parliament's State Control Committee on the recommendation of the State Comptroller Yitzhak Tunik and spent 13 months investigating the bank shares collapse.

Dollar hits record low in Tokyo

TOKYO (R) — Big bank currency speculators Monday beat a determined but lonely attempt by Japan's Central Bank to stop the dollar collapsing against the yen and sliding fast against the West German mark, dealers said.

The Bank of Japan reached deep into its reserves, buying around \$1.5 billion to try to support the greenback against a market convinced that the United States and Europe will not help Japan halt the yen's rise.

The dollar hit a new record low of 171.50 yen this morning, closing in Tokyo at 171.90 after New York's ¥94.20/40 Friday finish. It also fell through the psychological support level of 2.2 marks, closing at 2.1935/45.

One chief dealer at a Japanese bank said the market was not worried by the Bank of Japan's action after its failure in Tokyo and New York last week to stop the dollar's fall.

Japan's major life insurance and pension fund investors also lost confidence in the authorities' ability to keep exchange rates stable. "I cannot trust the Japanese

monetary authorities any more," said one fund manager who sold dollars heavily Monday.

Monday's events were a complete reversal of last September's group of five (G-5) joint central bank attack on the dollar. The Bank of Japan led the attack, that time selling \$15 billion to knock the dollar off its 240-yen highs.

Japan now fears its domestic industries are being badly hit by the swift yen rise and Japanese officials had said 180 yen to the dollar was enough for the time being.

The United States and Europe believe the yen is not yet high enough to cut Japanese export competitiveness to bring down its trade surpluses quickly and head off protectionism.

Japan's sensitive currency position was not helped Monday by news that its total trade surplus in the first 10 days of this month doubled to \$1.84 billion from a year ago and forecasts that it will reach a record \$70 billion in 1986/87.

Many dealers predict the dollar will now fall below 170 yen unless the U.S. Federal Reserve and the Bundesbank take measures to stop it, which is unlikely, they said.

The market is looking instead for a further cut in U.S. interest rates, after Monday's half point cut in the discount rate to 6.5 per cent, to boost the sluggish U.S. economy.

African financial needs top \$128b

BAMAKO (R) — Africa will need more than \$128 billion to pull out of its economic crisis by the end of this decade, a senior United Nations official has said here.

Djibril Dialo, head of information of the U.N. Office of Emergency Operations in Africa, told reporters that the continent's financial needs until 1990 had gone up from \$116 billion estimated by African foreign ministers when they met in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa last month.

Presenting a report which will be submitted to the special session of the U.N. General Assembly on Africa's economic crisis next month, Mr. Dialo said Africa had pledged to raise \$82.5 billion or around two-thirds of its total investment needs by itself, with the balance coming from external resources.

The report envisages over \$57 billion going to agriculture and \$60 billion to "sectors in support of agriculture," including industries providing farm machinery, crop processing, transport, health, education and social services.

Measures to combat drought and desertification would get over \$3 billion and "human resources development," including stemming Africa's serious brain drain, \$7 billion.

Mr. Dialo said that Africa's chronic drought which ended last year had acted as "an electric shock" to the continent.

"Africans realise that solutions must be worked out by themselves, albeit with international solidarity," he said.

He praised international aid donors for averting a major disaster last year but added that Africa's emergency was far from over.

Some 18 million Africans still needed urgent assistance, of which 80 per cent live in Angola, Mozambique, Ethiopia and Sudan, he said.

The 211-page report gives a detailed breakdown of all African countries' financing needs until 1990 and strongly criticises the role of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the continent.

Japanese shun company loyalties

TOKYO — Last year, Japan's three top trading firms, Mitsubishi, Fuyo and Sanwa, lost their best crude oil traders to foreign competitors. In January this year, another major trading house, Marubeni, suffered a similar blow.

Mitsubishi's Tetsushi Kitahara, 37, moved to the Austrian steel company, Voest Alpine, while C. Itoh's Hisashi Nasu, 42, switched to Elf oil, and Marubeni's 40-year-old Takashi Matsumura to an American trading house, Marc Rich.

The most adventurous of all, Mitsui's Eiji Wakiwaka, 36, went to London to become B.P.'s senior crude oil trader.

This exodus, while reflecting a growing demand for Japanese traders, has a far greater social implication: Japan's traditional practice of lifetime employment is fast being eroded.

The breaking down of lifetime company loyalty has been visible for some time. There has been a steady increase in job-switching in the past few years, particularly among the young and the less educated. It began to gain social respectability partly through positive media coverage. But elite establishments, like Mitsubishi and Mitsui, still seemed immune from the trend — until the departure of these four men.

It is still every Japanese boy's dream to get into a prestige university, which provides an entry to a large corporation. Employees are not willing to give up easily the hard-won security and prestige, particularly because, once out of the company, there is no way back into it. Most large establishments still rigidly adhere to the policy of hiring only "clean slates" straight out of college.

Undoubtedly, the sudden departure of these experienced traders in their prime sent a few shockwaves through the four trading firms. "The company made him what he is today," says one senior Mitsubishi employee.

"It is absolutely fatal to have a fight when leaving a company," emphasises Mr. Wakiwaka. Indeed, all four left their companies amicably. "A friendly takeover, you might say," says a B.P. executive, referring to Mr. Wakiwaka's transfer.

But apart from Mr. Wakiwaka, who is safely out of anybody's reach in London, the others are

reluctant to talk about their job switch. "I've been asked by the personnel department (of C. Itoh) not to meet the press," says Mr. Nasu, who is now with Elf.

The departure of these oil traders highlights the inflexibility of the seniority-based promotion and pay structure — the seemingly egalitarian system which induced company cohesion and loyalty so vital for Japan's rapid postwar economic growth.

"It is ridiculous that two people doing completely different jobs should be paid the same," said a Mitsubishi employee. Oil trading is a highly specialised job requiring a razor-sharp mind and the ability to make quick judgments under pressure.

The work is similar to that of foreign exchange dealers — making international transactions worth millions of dollars on the phone. Naturally their salaries are high in the West — \$100,000 minimum for top traders, one Japanese businessman points out.

Yet, Mr. Kitahara's basic pay was more or less the same as other 37-year-olds at Mitsubishi (perhaps \$50,000-\$60,000 a year), only a fraction of the profit he was making for the firm.

The same, of course, was true of the other three.

Mr. Kitahara's bi-annual bonus might have been higher than that of his colleagues, and he might have got his promotion faster, but the difference would have been marginal, explained the Mitsubishi insider.

The Mitsubishi employee stresses that the traditional personnel system dampens creativity. He recalls a well-known dictum: "Never be late for work, never take days off, but don't work hard either. Don't make mistakes. That's the key to survival in Japanese organisations."

Greater responsibility and freedom offered by Western firms are enormously attractive to able and ambitious men frustrated in a conservative environment. "I couldn't let him do what he wanted to do," says Mr. Kitahara's former superior at Mitsubishi.

Mr. Wakiwaka's former colleague echoed the same view: "There were too many people telling him how to do his job."

Oil traders work almost entirely on their own, building contacts themselves. Often, an individual trader's reputation carries more weight in negotiations with other dealers or clients than the organisation he represents, one trader explains. So these men could take their contacts with them to new companies and do exactly what they were doing before, with greater freedom, for a higher salary.

In the domestic market, no foreign competitor can beat us," boasts an oil trader working for a Japanese trading house. Western companies need the help of Japanese traders with good contacts in order to do well in the market in Japan. This is why they are always on the lookout for good Japanese traders. Mr. Wakiwaka too, he reckons, will eventually be sent back to Japan where he will be most valuable to B.P.

In the financial sector, a transfer market on a bigger scale is already evident. Foreign securities houses opening new offices or expanding existing ones in the liberated Tokyo market have been aggressively head-hunting Japanese bond dealers and stockbrokers. But securities houses do not carry the prestige of trading houses, so this sector should be considered in isolation.

Mr. Wakiwaka and the others are hardly typical Japanese businessmen. They have all been exposed to Western culture and speak fluent English. Kitahara, a diplomat's son, was mostly brought up in Europe, while Marubeni's Matsumura has lived in London.

C. Itoh's Nasu spent four years in Italy and Singapore, and Mr. Wakiwaka resigned only a few years after his return from the United States where he obtained an MBA from Harvard.

However attractive the conditions offered by Western firms, there will be many who will hesitate to break off from the Japanese corporations they grew up in.

"Leaving a Japanese firm is tantamount to leaving Japanese society," Mr. Wakiwaka says. There will be financial constraints too, such as immediate settlement of low-interest mortgage loans which Japanese employees pay back to their companies throughout their working lives.

"You have to be well off to take such a drastic step," says one trader. "Besides," he adds, "there is no security. If you don't do well, you can easily get the sack" — Financial Times news feature.

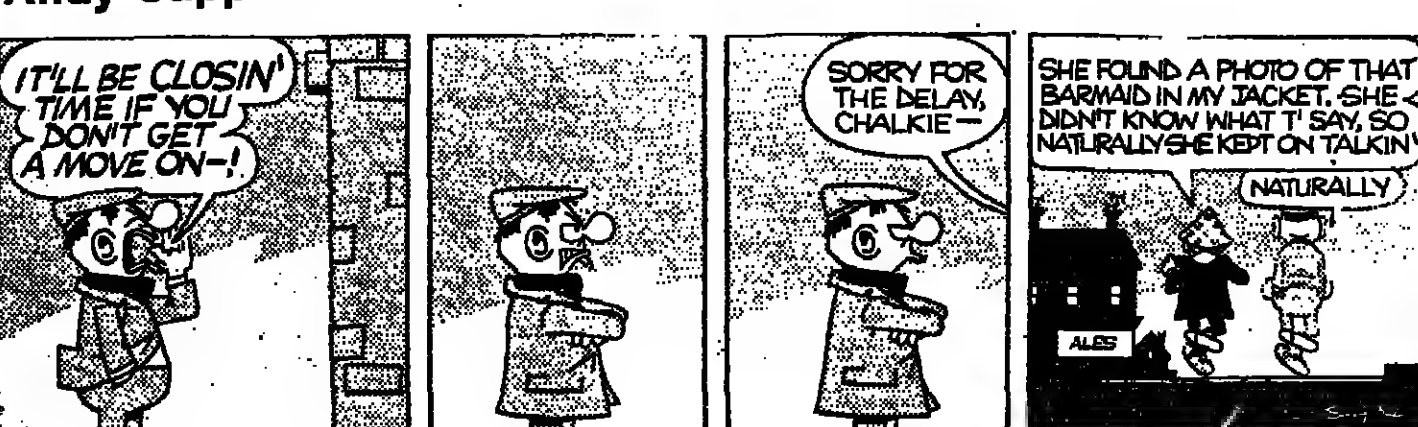
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VIRTE

RETEB

BORREB

HYLOW

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer by: &

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CROON RABBI BEATEN JAGGED
Answer: At thirty a woman is often as old as this — SHE'S GOING TO BE

Gorbachev warns Washington against political manoeuvres

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, delivering a fierce attack on Washington, said Monday there could be a summit with President Ronald Reagan when the atmosphere was right but that the United States appeared unwilling to negotiate.

Mr. Gorbachev, addressing a gathering at an East Berlin factory, said workers had asked him if Washington was deceiving Moscow with talk of disarmament while secretly seeking military superiority.

"We won't allow ourselves to be deceived by anyone. No one can use a smoke screen against us, and that goes for the summit as well," he said.

"(The summit) can take place when international relations have reached the appropriate state," he said, echoing remarks he made in the East German city of Potsdam Sunday.

He said the Soviet Union was willing to play its role in achieving nuclear and conventional disarmament.

"This will seem to be lacking in Washington," he added.

The Soviet leader, in East Berlin for the East German Communist Party congress, lashed out at U.S. foreign policy throughout the world, accusing Washington of neo-globalism.

Mr. Gorbachev attacked last week's U.S. air raid on Libya as a practical act carried out against the will of most NATO allies and world public opinion.

He condemned U.S. backing for anti-government rebels in Afghanistan which, he said, had reached an "unprecedented level."

"If anyone has any doubts who is responsible for tensions in the world today, this should have been made clear to him by the events of recent times," he told 2,000 workers at the engineering factory.

U.S. attempts to "turn back the clock" meant an increasing level of violence and state terrorism in the world.

Mr. Gorbachev's strong attack on the United States appeared to qualify his remarks in Potsdam, which some Western diplomats interpreted as a sign the summit could go ahead this year.

Moscow has already called off a planned meeting of Soviet and U.S. foreign ministers, which had been due to prepare a second Reagan-Gorbachev summit.

Mr. Gorbachev repeated proposals he made in a speech to the Congress on Friday for cuts in conventional weapons and forces in Europe.

Workers in the flag-bedecked hall paraded red banners pledging support for "the new proposals of the USSR to reduce conventional arms and forces in Europe."

Mr. Gorbachev said the West bore full responsibility for the current division of Europe and repeated Soviet proposals to disband both the NATO and Warsaw Pact military alliances "or at least their military structures."

He called on the gathering to increase efforts for economic cooperation with the Soviet Union.

"Our people realise they must now work in a different way and they are ready to re-adapt," he said, in a reference to reforms in the Soviet Union.

He said cooperation with Moscow's allies "should and must be expanded and made ... considerably more effective."

Meanwhile a Soviet commentator said Monday that Moscow still seeks negotiations with the West on reducing arms and solving regional conflicts, but accused Western leaders of lacking political will to reach agreement.

In particular, the commentator charged, the current U.S. administration "has developed a kind of conditioned reflex to any Soviet initiatives: They are all immediately and vigorously rejected."

Vladimir Katin, a commentator for the No. 2 government news agency, was writing one day after Mr. Gorbachev said in Potsdam, East Germany that he was still willing to meet U.S. President Ronald Reagan in a summit this year.

Katin contended that the U.S. raid on Libya, nuclear test blasts in Nevada, research on the "Star Wars" and policy toward Nicaragua, Afghanistan and Angola are all "links of a chain — the policy of dictat and military superiority with which the USA would like to entangle the world."

He did not say whether a summit meeting depended on a change in those policies, but noted that "we are holding out to the West not a fist, but an open hand in order to jointly help mankind to survive."

Katin charged that, while Gorbachev went to last November's Geneva summit in sincere search for ways to reduce nuclear arms, Mr. Reagan was not serious about disarmament.

For Mr. Reagan, he said, "matters did not go beyond professional smiles and general statements on peace."

"Obviously Mikhail Gorbachev had weighty grounds to declare last week that Washington had taken the path of actually scuttling the Geneva accords," he said.

Contrasting what he painted as aggressive Western policy with what he called the peaceful policies of the Soviet Union, Katin cited the 1955 agreement to withdraw Soviet troops from Austria, the 1970 Moscow treaty signed with West Germany and the Salt 1 and 2 agreement as evidence of Soviet willingness to reach agreements.

Such agreements could be achieved only with the political will of the West, Katin said, charging that there is now a shortage of such sentiment among Western leaders.

Queen Elizabeth turns 60

LONDON (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II celebrated her 60th birthday to joyous tributes Monday, planning to mix with her subjects in public despite fears of terrorist attack.

Surrounded by her husband, Prince Philip, their four children and 41 other members of the family, the queen began the day with a morning service of thanksgiving in St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle near London, one of her official residences.

The services were attended by the entire royal family, and representatives of the government and the Commonwealth, the 49-nation association of Britain and its former colonies which is headed by the British monarch. Another 1,000 invited worshippers attended.

Police with sniffer dogs checked for explosives in manholes and loose tiles in the sidewalks. Uniformed officers lined the streets of Windsor for a procession by the royal family in open carriages — despite increased fears of terrorist reprisal for Britain's backing of the U.S. bombing of Libya.

Queen Elizabeth, who succeeded to the throne 34 years ago and modernised the 920-year-old monarchy while maintaining its mystique, insisted on going ahead with the open-carriage procession.

A lone royal piper played "happy birthday" early Monday at Windsor Castle, 34 kilometres west of London.

Radio and television networks played the national anthem, "God Save the Queen," ahead of main news bulletins, and most newspapers bannered pictures and tributes.

Meanwhile in Christchurch, New Zealand, a tree planted by Queen Elizabeth II had been felled, possibly by Maori protesters demanding more rights to their ancestral lands, officials said Monday.

Staff at Christchurch's Botanic Gardens discovered the vandalised tulip tree, a member of the Mangolia family, when they arrived at work Monday, the queen's 60th birthday.

The tree was planted by the queen during her recent visit to New Zealand.

No one claimed responsibility for the vandalism, but a slogan protesting against the Treaty of Waitangi was spray-painted on the grass near the felled tree.

The treaty, signed by British representatives and native Maori chiefs in 1840, has been at the centre of land-rights protests. Neil Drain, Christchurch director of parks and recreation, said the city council is considering replacing the tulip tree.

Death toll tops 100 in Sri Lanka dam burst

COLOMBO (R) — At least 100 people were killed when an irrigation dam burst Sunday and water inundated dozens of villages in eastern Sri Lanka, police estimated Monday.

The state-run Daily News said in a report from its correspondent at the spot that the death toll could be higher than the police figure.

Residents told Reuters by telephone that at least 30,000 people were made homeless after water from the Kantalei Reservoir, 230 kilometres from Colombo, burst through cracks in the dam and swept across Kantalei town and surrounding areas.

State-run radio reported Monday that 10,000 houses were destroyed by the surging waters.

Troops backed by air force helicopters and navy boats resumed a rescue operation at dawn Monday as newspapers reported that survivors were perched on trees and roof-tops waiting for help.

Residents of the main east coast town of Trincomalee said rescuers waded through waist-deep water to reach survivors.

Officials said 18,000 people had been moved to hastily set-up temporary camps at schools and temples.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathumudali Monday ruled out sabotage in the breaching of the dam.

Kantalei, consisting of dozens of villages inhabited by Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims, is in Trincomalee district, which is part of eastern province plagued by Tamil guerrilla violence.

Mr. Athulathumudali said the dam was guarded by soldiers, and guerrillas fighting to set up a separate state could not have breached the 12-metre high dam, which held back 110,000 acres (44,500 hectares) of water.

Irrigation Department officials said an inquiry would be held to find out how the breach occurred.

Newspapers reported that residents had complained weeks ago that the dam was in danger of bursting.

Officials said waters from the concrete-lined reservoir helped to irrigate over 50,000 acres (12,000 hectares) of rice and other crops.

Dynamite found outside former office of Aquino

MANILA (AP) — Two kilos of dynamite was found Monday outside an office building owned by the family of President Corazon Aquino, and a Muslim group claimed responsibility.

Police said they found the dynamite sticks outside the seven-story Cojuangco building in Makati district, where Mrs. Aquino previously kept an office before moving last month into the presidential palace guesthouse.

A building security guard said the dynamite appeared to have been left but did not explode.

An unidentified woman called the Manila bureau of Agence France-Presse (AFP) and read a statement from a Muslim group calling itself the "Moro Al Fatah" and claiming responsibility for the incident, AFP editor Roberto Coloma said.

In the statement addressed to "Madame President," the previously unknown group expressed support for autonomy for Muslims in the southern Philippines.

It said the dynamite probably did not explode because "you are not the obstacle" to Muslim autonomy. However, it warned there could be a "second attempt."

"If you remain callous and indifferent then we will soon be at your door," said the statement signed by "Commander Malakal Maut" which the caller said means "angel of death."

More than 50,000 people died in the 1970s during the Muslim revolt for self-rule on Mindanao Island.

Police said they went to the building after an anonymous caller claiming to be from "the press" said he had received a message that a bomb was set to go off.

The building contains several business offices and the headquarters of the Benigno S. Aquino Jr. Foundation, an organisation dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Aquino's husband, who was assassinated in 1983.

Meanwhile former President Ferdinand Marcos predicted in a videotaped interview released Monday that the new government would fall to Communist rebels within one month.

Marcos also said that Muslim forces loyal to one of his former political leaders, Ali Dinaporo, outnumber government troops on the large island of Mindanao by 10-to-1.

Marcos claimed that 34 per cent of the nation's soldiers have left their posts since he left the country on Feb. 25.

His statements, made during the weekend at his home in Honolulu, came amid increasing pressure against President Corazon Aquino from both pro-Marcos demonstrators and Communist insurgents.

Mrs. Aquino announced Sunday that despite increasing Communist rebel attacks on soldiers, she still plans to call a cease-fire.

Waldheim says he should have disclosed war details

WASHINGTON (R) — Former U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim has said in an interview it would have been better if he had not hidden details of his World War II military role for some 40 years.

But he said in the interview with U.S. News and World Report magazine that "only someone who has a clean conscience can act in the way I do, because I knew I had nothing to hide."

Dr. Waldheim, who is running for president of his native Austria, has been accused of complicity in Nazi war crimes, a charge he strenuously denied.

"I was never involved in anything that would justify a feeling of guilt — having murdered people, having given orders of killing people, nothing of this kind," he said in the interview, Sunday.

Dr. Waldheim had said he was given a medical discharge after being wounded on the Russian front in 1941 and resumed law studies in Vienna, but recent accusations claim he returned to the German staff and served in Yugoslavia and Greece.

Most of the crops were destroyed by the flood.

Train and bus services to Trincomalee were disrupted after the gushing waters swept away parts of the rail track and roads.

The reservoir lies 40 kilometres south of Trincomalee and runs along the district's main road to Colombo, Sri Lanka's capital.

Meanwhile six soldiers were killed and three wounded in a guerrilla ambush in northern Sri Lanka Monday, the Defence Ministry said.

A spokesman said Tamil guerrillas fighting for a separate state in northern and eastern areas attacked an army patrol near Thodumman military camp in Jaffna district.

The official Lankapuwath News Agency quoted security sources as saying guerrillas fired mortars and rocket propelled grenades at the patrol from a Hindu temple.

The soldiers fought back and several guerrillas were reported killed.

Lankapuwath said troops helped to put out a fire in the temple following the clash.

Honecker reelected as party chief

EAST BERLIN (R) — Veteran East German leader Erich Honecker was confirmed Monday in his post as general secretary at the end of a five-yearly Communist Party congress marked by conservative political and economic programmes.

Mr. Honecker, 73, for 15 years at the pinnacle of the party, announced his re-election at the congress after a closed-door meeting of the policy-making Central Committee.

He gave a clenched-fist salute as 2,700 delegates and visitors, among them Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, applauded.

The new ruling politburo, elected together with Honecker, con-

tained four new members including 56-year-old Halle party chief Hans-Joachim Boehme and newly-appointed Defence Minister Heinz Kessler.

Werner Eherlein and Siegfried Lorenz, non-voting "candidate" members of the politburo since December, were elevated to the level of full members. Both became candidates after former contender for the leadership, Konrad Neumann, was stripped of his posts late last year. After Monday's elections at the Central Committee meeting, the politburo consisted of 22 members.

Eberlein, and Lorenz rose to the highest rank after years of party organisation in major national industrial centres. They are regarded as competent "technocrats" but not rated by Western diplomats as immediate leadership contenders.

Honecker's closest rival, 49-year-old Egon Krenz, was confirmed in his positions in the politburo and as a Central Committee secretary in charge of security affairs.

Western diplomats and official sources said both led the move last November to unseat Neumann, politburo colleague and East Berlin party chief.

Neumann, renowned for hard-line foreign policy views and a flamboyant lifestyle, was banished to head a state archive in Potsdam.

Policeman, 5 blacks die in South African protests

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A black policeman was killed by protesters and five black men died in tribal fighting in unrelenting South African violence, police said Monday.

The policeman, the 32nd black member of the force to die since unrest began 26 months ago, was hit over the head in Atteridgeville black township near Pretoria Sunday night by protesters who tried to set his body alight.

The five black men died in a black reserve south of Durban when two factions of the Mkhize tribe fought Sunday with homemade guns, knives and sticks over long-standing grievances, police said.

The victims had all been shot and stabbed.

Police said their patrols fired shotguns and tear gas several times to disperse crowds of blacks in three eastern Cape black townships.

At Zwijde, near Port Elizabeth, in the eastern Cape, a black policeman's home was badly damaged when it was petrol bombed, police said.

Black policemen and councillors are favourite targets of protesters, who accuse them of collaborating with the white-led government in Pretoria.

More than 1,470 people have died in the current cycle of unrest.

Meanwhile South African Foreign Minister R.F. Botha spent the weekend in Geneva and will leave the Swiss city Monday for an undisclosed destination, a spokeswoman for the Foreign Ministry said.

Mr. Wolfowitz, who visited Bali on Saturday, said security could be tightened further following the raids on Libya.

About 80 young Indonesian Muslims Monday protested in front of the U.S. embassy in Jakarta against the raids. Some were allowed into the mission to present a petition.

Nearly 90 per cent of Indonesia's 163 million people are Muslim and Jakarta has said it regrets the raids.

Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumatudjaja said Sunday after returning from a meeting in New Delhi of Non-Aligned foreign ministers that the Libyan action was not on the agenda of the talks with Reagan but the issue could be raised.

"If the aim of an attack is to combat terrorism, it should be against terrorists. If it means attacking a country, it is difficult to accept," Mr. Mochtar told reporters.

Mr. Reagan's visit is the first by a U.S. president to the region in 10 years and while in Bali he will meet foreign ministers of the six-member Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

What they do see will come to the Reagan's at their beachside hotel at Nusa Dua — a spectacular complex built in the style of a Balinese temple — as his security aides attempt to minimise the president's travel and exposure to possible threats during the visit from April 29 to May 2.

The Jakarta Post quoted Armed Forces Chief Gen. Benny Murdani as saying that security on Bali was under control.

"I shouldn't worry too much, everything is under control here, including security arrangements in Bali," Gen. Murdani said when asked about possible guerrilla attacks.

150 killed as Bangladesh ferry sinks

DHAKA (R) — At least 150 people were drowned and 250 are missing after a crowded river ferry capsized near Dhaka during a storm Sunday night, police and rescue workers said Monday.

They said the double-decker ferry Atlas Star sank in the Shibatalakha River with nearly 1,000 people on board.

"Many swam ashore but there may be at least 250 others still unaccounted for," one rescue worker told Reuters.

Local officials said hundreds of policemen and villagers searched for missing passengers through the night but did not find anyone alive, sparking fears that the death toll could reach 400.

Marine authorities said the ferry was going from Dhaka to Barisal on the coast when it was caught by a storm with winds of 90 kilometres an hour.

Rescuers said salvage ships reached the scene Monday after rain and winds stopped, but it could take hours for the ferry to be pulled out of the water.

32 die in refugee fire

Meanwhile firemen and volunteer rescue workers have found 32 bodies after fire swept a refugee camp Sunday, destroying hundreds of houses and leaving more than 20,000 people homeless, police said Monday.

They said the volunteers recovered 23 charred bodies as they searched nearly two square miles (5.2 square kilometres) of the camp, which is on the outskirts of Dhaka. Nine bodies, including four babies, were recovered by firemen and police Sunday.

The blaze was made worse by strong winds and several barrels of oil stockpiled in a nearby shop, they said.

The camp, one of 26 in Bangladesh, houses Urdu-speaking Muslims who have been awaiting transfer to Pakistan since Bangladesh achieved independence in 1971.

Bangladesh has a total of 250,000 Biharis awaiting transfer. Most Bihari men work as hawk-

kers, road-side vendors, rickshaw pullers and tailors, while the women sew carpets and scrub floors to eke out a living.

"Where can I go now? Who will help me?" said Samratunessa, mother of four children.

"I have waited for these long 15 years in the hope of good days ahead. But I have now the worst disaster," she told reporters, sitting on the burned floor of her house.

"God is somehow unkind to me," said Fazlur Rahman, who lost his wife and only child in Sunday's fire.

He said he was not home when the fire broke out, but rushed back when he saw flames spiralling into the sky. It was too late.

"I could not get to my hut which was in the middle of the camp, because fire had by then engulfed the entire area. I thought they must have already gone to safety somewhere," he said.

"When the fire was put out, I went to my hut to see if I could salvage anything. I got only two things — the bodies of my wife and my son," he said, hurrying into tears.

Reagan to be surrounded by tightest security in Bali

NUSA DUA, Bali (R) — President Reagan will be surrounded by tight security during next week's visit to Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim nation, but U.S. ambassador Paul Wolfowitz has called for even tougher precautions following the air raids against Libya.

Mr. Reagan and his wife Nancy will be encased in a web of security as soon as Air Force One arrives at Bali's Ngurah Rai Airport and they will see very little of the resort island.

What they do see will come to the Reagan's at their beachside hotel at Nusa Dua — a spectacular complex built in the style of a Balinese temple — as his security aides attempt to minimise the president's travel and exposure to possible threats during the visit from April 29 to May 2.

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GOREN BRIDGE

SY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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DECLARER'S RIGHT HAND

Both vulnerable. North deals.
NORTH
♠ 63
♥ A4
♦ KQ107432
♣ A5

WEST
♠ 10952
♥ KQJ7
♦ A
♣ 9874

EAST
♠ QJ6
♥ 653
♦ 9865
♣ QJ2

SOUTH
♠ AK74
♥ 10982
♦ J
♣ K1003

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
3 NT Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: King of ♠.

Yesterday's column featured an unusual safety play by declarer. Here's another rare kind to add to your collection.

South was an old-fashioned bidder — the modern tendency would be to respond one heart despite the great disparity in suit quality. Had South responded one heart, he would have known that on 4-4 major fit was available. Now he was faced with a red herring, and two no trump was a practical solution. North carried on to game.

West led the king of hearts and declarer, of course, won the ace — he had a sure second stopper in the



Saudis discover 5,000-year-old artefacts

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia (R) — A team of archaeologists have discovered 5,000-year-old artefacts south of Saudi Arabia's eastern Gulf port of Dhahran which could help shed light on ancient civilisations of the Arabian peninsula. Team head Ali Al Mughammar told Reuters that the artefacts — including spearheads, pots and seals — were found in burial mounds dating back to 3,000 years B.C., around the same age the mysterious prehistoric Dilmun people lived on the nearby island of Bahrain. He said the findings, made during the fourth season of excavations in the area south of Dhahran, could help establish what links existed between the Arabian peninsula and other civilisations in the Middle East and the subcontinent. The Dilmun have been identified by cuneiform tablets discovered in Bahrain as traders up to 5,000 years ago, but their origin is unclear.

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